

**CITY OF NORWALK BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
AUGUST 6TH, 6:00 PM
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1ST FLOOR WAITING ROOM
137 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK CT 06851**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Jud Aley; Mike Heslin; Peter Franz;
Colin Grotheer (6:16 p.m.); Monika Stokes (6:16 p.m.)

OTHERS: Jim Carter, Norwalk River Valley Trail; Bruce Chimento, DPW;
Deanna D'Amore, Norwalk Health Department; Paul Sotnik,
DPW; Tami Strauss, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency;
Rebecca Schuetz, *The Hour*, Dorothy Wilson, Planning & Zoning

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. 6:00 PUBLIC INPUT

There were no members of the public present this evening.

2. 6:10 APPROVAL OF JULY 2ND MINUTES

**** MR. HESLIN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MR. ALEY SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. 6:25 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Grotheer joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Ms. Stokes joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

a. Bike Plan – Colin Grotheer

Mr. Grotheer said he is pricing out Richards Avenue and Fallow Street.

b. Bike Share – Nancy Rosett

Following tomorrow's Public Works's Committee meeting, they hope to have a contract for the Bike Share program presented to the Common Council for adoption at its next

meeting. Once this happens, they will be able to start discussing a roll out and how to involve the public.

c. DPW Open House – Mike Heslin

Mr. Heslin reported that the DPW open house will take place on September 29th. More information to follow.

d. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) – Jim Carter

Mr. Carter did not have anything new to report, but stated they continue to be on track with their plans which lean toward an active construction season for 2019.

Mr. Carter said they anticipate completing the markers on the road from Calf Pasture Beach Road to The Maritime Aquarium. He presented signage. He asked for an update on the Yankee Gas project. Mr. Sotnik said there have been some issues and they have not marked or paved the road. The issue is on Cove Avenue and Fifth Street. Nothing can be done on the road until the Yankee Gas project has been completed.

Mr. Carter said he wants to put up signage but is reluctant until the road work has been completed. He added that he would like to walk those roads with Mr. Sotnik to determine sign and marker placement once the roadwork is complete.

e. Pedestrian Plan – Deborah Lewis

There was no report this evening.

f. Pump Track – Gunnar Waldman, Monika Stokes

Ms. Stokes explained that there were discussions about having the track at Oyster Shell Park, but it is on a land fill. She said they need to find out if it is ok to use. She reported that they are working on permits.

Ms. Stokes said that they would hold training races for children and adults in the late afternoon. Mr. Chimento said that parking was discussed today and recommended making arrangements to park in the Maritime Garage. Mr. Grotheer noted that they may not be able to get into the garage because of the height of the bike racks.

g. Safety/Outreach – Jud Aley

Mr. Aley said there was nothing new to report.

h. Strategic Plan – Deanna D’Amore

Ms. D’Amore reviewed the Strategic Plan. She asked for input, comments and edits. The Commissioners reviewed the goals contained in the Strategic Plan and provided feedback to Ms. D’Amore.

3. 6:15 CHAIR’S REPORT

Ms. Rosett reported that the ConnDOT project at the intersection of Main Avenue/RT 7/Merritt Parkway had been tabled, but she received an e-mail two weeks ago notifying her that the project was now on.

Ms. Rosett asked if anyone had any webinars they would like to share with DPW since that is part of our strategic plan for this year.

She met with Mr. Morgan, Communications Manager and Grants Coordinator, to discuss press releases and grant opportunities.

Norwalk Police are sponsoring a national night out tomorrow and the Bike/Walk Commission will have a table at the event.

Ms. Rosett urged the Commissioners to look at the survey about different intersections. Mr. Aley suggested putting a link on the website.

The next commission meeting will take place on September 10th because the first Monday in September is Labor Day.

i. Website – Peter Franz

Mr. Franz reported that the pedestrian infrastructure survey is on the website.

j. Planning and Zoning Liaison – Jud Aley

Mr. Aley did not have anything to report this evening.

k. Public Works Liaison – Nancy Rosett

Ms. Rosett reported that she drove around with Ms. Taber of Public Works to decide where signage was needed to point out the location of the bike racks. Ms. Taber will contact Parks and Recreation to have some of the foliage trimmed that is blocking the signs.

I. Redevelopment Liaison – Colin Grotheer

Mr. Grotheer reported that he met with Mr. Sheehan to review various City plans. There are five Redevelopment areas in the downtown area. He asked Mr. Sheehan about parking requirements. Feedback was that most of the resistance to lowering the parking requirements is from the Commissioners. Ms. Wilson noted that a lot of the developments provide more parking than required.

Mr. Carter mentioned the Head of the Harbor project and said the NRVT will carry the Harbor Loop through there. The status needs to be confirmed. Mr. Carter asked that the Redevelopment Agency put pressure on 148 East Avenue to continue the Loop Trail.

5. 7:10 **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Walking Update – Kaitlin Latham

Ms. D'Amore said they are working on a grant application with the Mayor's office regarding childhood obesity. She noted that this is a national, competitive grant. Wednesday night walks at the Beach are going strong and have been extended to September 12th. The Silvermine Walkers switched their walks from the first Saturday to the first Sunday of the month.

b. DPW Update – Bruce Chimento

Mr. Chimento updated the Commission on plans for various roads in East Norwalk. Ms. Rosett asked about the location of the bike lane on East Avenue. Mr. Chimento said the issue is parking on the lower end of East Avenue by Cottage Street. He said signage will be installed.

f. Intersection of Water and Washington Streets – Bruce Chimento

Mr. Chimento reported that the Public Works department plans to create a dotted lane with signage on Water Street to let motorists know that the lane may be used by bikes. Mr. Grotheer asked if sharrows could be added to Water Street. Mr. Chimento said they could not be added.

Mr. Heslin left the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

**** MR. ALEY MOVED TO REQUEST THE INSTALLATION OF
SHARROWS AT THE INTERSECTION OF WATER STREET AND
WASHINGTON STREET GOING NORTH
** MR. GROTHEER SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED**

c. Bike Lanes on Richards Avenue – Bruce Chimento

Mr. Sotnik reported that it is a matter of going out to measure. He asked the Commissioners if they were looking to go from Flax Hill Avenue or from Route 1. Mr. Aley asked him to measure as much as possible.

d. Moving Bike Rack Inside The Maritime Garage to the Sidewalk – Bruce Chimento

Mr. Chimento said he will be bringing this item before the Parking Authority. He said they need to be careful about not blocking the sidewalk, because a lot of people walk there. Mr. Aley said he will take a look there.

e. Bike Trough Repair – Bruce Chimento

Mr. Aley asked for an update on the crosswalk at Knight Street. Mr. Chimento said it is under contract, but they are waiting for the completion of the Head of the Harbor south. He said the crosswalk at Main and Wall is under contract, but they have to relocate the gas line. He showed the location of the proposed crosswalk on a map.

The Commissioners discussed reversing the one-way patterns of Knight Street and High Street.

Mr. Chimento said the entire project is expected to be completed by spring 2019.

Mr. Chimento said East Wall Street needs to be re-paved. They expect to gain five parking spaces on the hill. The Commissioners requested the installation of a bike lane there.

Mr. Grotheer said he talked to people in the First Taxing District about a Park Street crosswalk. Mr. Chimento said they turned down what Public Works wanted to do. A cross walk will be put in along with a sign “yield to pedestrians”.

6. 7:30 **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business discussed this evening.

7. 7:30 **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

Next meeting: September 10th, 2018 6:00 – 7:30 pm Health Department Waiting Room
(1st Fl.)