

**CITY OF NORWALK BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1ST FLOOR WAITING ROOM
137 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK CT 06851**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Jud Aley (6:33 p.m.), Mike Heslin, Deborah Lewis, Colin Grotheer (6:37 p.m.), Vincent Scicchitano

OTHERS: Bruce Chimento, DPW, Paul Slotnik, DPW, Deanna D'Amore, Norwalk Health Department, Katlin Latham, Norwalk Health Department, Susan Smith, Bike/Walk Connecticut

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. PUBLIC INPUT

There were no members of the public present.

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 6 MINUTES

Mr. Aley entered the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

There were a few edits to the minutes. Ms. D'Amore name was spelled incorrectly. Under Section i, change "inferstructure" to "infrastructure". In Section e, under Bike Trough Repair remove "Post Office".

Mr. Grotheer entered the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

In Section 3k, Change "Tabor" to "Taber".

**** MS. ROSETT MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AMENDED MINUTES.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Rosett congratulated Ms. Latham on getting her Masters in Public Health. She received a round of applause. Ms. Rosett welcomed Ms. Lewis as the newest member of the Commission. Ms. Rosett also mentioned they were saying goodbye to Mr. Chimento who is retiring from the DPW and this was his last meeting. He also received applause from the group.

She thanked the Commission for their help on National Night Out with the Norwalk police. She said they were able to sign up a few more people to their email mailing list. She said there was an article in the Norwalk Hour about their pedestrian audit and she said they receive additional audits back from the article. She thanked Mr. Aley for coming to the Ordinance Committee meeting last week about reorganization of government.

Ms. Rosset then read a position and asked for the Commission to vote on it being adopted.

The Bike/Walk Commission supports the creation of an Economic and Community Development Department and the position of Transportation Planner. One of the purposes of our Commission is to “promote complete streets programs and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians in Norwalk”. Complete streets are streets for everyone they are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users including bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Over the past few years, the Commission and its predecessor organization has worked with the Department of Public Works to improve the built environment which is a large part of the complete streets philosophy. Having a single department responsible for transportation and mobility as well as business development and tourism will bring complete streets improvements to Norwalk more efficiently and economically. The Transportation Planner will also approve and develop projects with emphasis on complete streets and work toward long-term transportation solutions and improvements.

**** MS. ROSSET MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THIS POSITION ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION**

**** MR. GROTHEER SECONDED.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Bike Plan – Colin Grotheer

Mr. Grotheer said there was nothing to report.

b. Bike Share – Nancy Rosett

Ms. Rosett said there was nothing to report. She said there will be a public meeting as to where the stations will go.

c. DPW Open House – Mike Heslin

Mr. Heslin said the DPW Open House will be held on Saturday September 29 from 10-2 p.m. The Commission is partnering with the Kiwanis Club. He said free helmets will be distributed and he wants the Commission to engage with the public. Mr. Heslin asked for a commitment of two hours from some members. He said they have 119 helmets for kids and Mr. Heslin will donate another 10 helmets for adults. Mr. Heslin said they will distribute little packets about what they are trying to do and get some email addresses and phone numbers from the public. Ms. Rosset said there will be volunteers who are trained to fit the helmets. Mr. Scicchitano asked if handouts with maps and bike lanes will be given out. Ms. Latham said maps would be available.

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

There was nothing to report.

e. Pedestrian Plan – Deborah Lewis

Ms. Lewis said there is no official update. Ms. Lewis said her goal for the committee is to have fewer goals that are actionable. She said a lot is happening in terms of walking informally. Ms. Lewis said she met someone at her walk in Silvermine that is dedicated to having local business' in her area keep sidewalks clear.

f. Pump Track – Gunnar Waldman and Monica Stokes

Ms. Rosset said she had an email from Ms. Stokes saying they had 30 kids for the skills clinic and over 40 racers. All feedback after the event was positive. Ms. Rosset said future events will be held every Tuesday night in September at 5:45 p.m. in Oyster Shell Park.

g. Safety/Outreach – Jud Aley

Mr. Aley said he had nothing on safety. For Outreach, he talked about Richards Avenue and an issue with cars going quickly through the two sections of Norwalk Community College. Ms. Rosset said the situation was improved by putting some parking spaces to narrow the traffic lane and provided some much-needed parking.

h. Strategic Plan – Deanna D'Amore

Ms. D'Amore said there was nothing new to report.

i. Website – Peter Franz

Mr. Franz was not at the meeting, but Ms. Latham had an update. She said she added a link to the website that will bring you to a quick Google survey. Ms. Latham said you can add your email and join the mailing list. She added she updated the goals for the coming year and a link to the Pedestrian Plan document.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Walking Update – Caitlan Latham

Ms. Latham said this is Child Obesity Awareness Month and a Family Fun Day will be held at Calf Pasture Beach on September 23. Ms. Latham said on Sunday October 7 a Silvermine Walk will be held at Silvermine School at 9:00 a.m led by Ms. Lewis with a breakfast afterward at Silvermine Market. On October 14 a NorWALKer walk will be held at 10:15 at St. Paul's Green that will go past the church. Mr. Scicchitano asked about putting a walk together with Norwalk Senior Center. Mr. Scicchitano said the Director is a friend and he could talk to her. Ms. Latham welcomed the offer.

b. DPW Update – Bruce Chimento

Mr. Chimento discussed sidewalks. He said sidewalks are a Capital Budget Improvement. He said when we put in a new road we put in a new sidewalk. Mr. Chimento said the city does not maintain sidewalks unless they are on city property. He said maintenance is up to the adjacent property owner and that is by ordinance. He pointed out any footpaths can be replaced but must adhere to ADA requirements.

Mr. Slotnik gave an update on ongoing projects. He said they are working on design of Wall and Knight Street. He said curbing and sidewalks have to be done. Mr. Chimento said they are working on a crosswalk at Lewis Street by the Green.

The East Avenue bridge was discussed as being unsafe for cyclists. Mr. Chimento said nothing can be done temporarily and the problem will be fixed when the new bridge has been completed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Bike/Walk Connecticut – Susan Smith

Ms. Smith, the Executive Director of Bike/Walk CT, made a presentation. She said the organization has been around since 2006 and changed its name in 2010.

Ms. Smith is a League Cycling Director and National Bike Summit, the biggest of its kind, which takes place in Washington D.C. and culminates with lobbying for each state on Capitol Hill. She biked with her husband from Canada to Mexico all self-supported in 2014. She has spent 30 years in the Aerospace Business. Ms. Smith said Bike/Walk CT has been going to different towns and running rodeos.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. ALEY MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. SCICCHITANO SECONDED THE MOTION.
MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

G. Venuto
Telesco Secretarial Services