

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 5, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Jud Aley; Vincent Scicchitano; Jim Carter; Peter Franz; Deborah Lewis

OTHERS: Deanna D'Amore, Director, Health Department; Paul Sotnik, Civil Engineer DPW; Tim Sheehan, Executive Director, Redevelopment Agency; Kaitlin Latham, Health Educator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment this evening.

**2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 1ST MINUTES**

On page 1, remove Ms. D'Amore from the attendance.

**\*\* MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* MS. LEWIS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Rosett reported and said that Mr. Franz will be resigning from the commission due to scheduling conflicts. She said she has spoken with Ms. Bisceglie who has been doing a lot of work for the commission and she will be recommending to the Mayor that she be appointed to fill the vacancy.

Ms. Rosett said that the places for bikes survey will be done again this year and it should be ready for the commission to review at the December meeting. She said that a new question has been added to the survey on the number of publicly available bike parking spaces and she has contacted the Board of Education to get the number of spaces at the public schools. She said that she will send the commission the locations that she has so far and asked that the commission update the list with any other known locations. Mr. Sheehan suggested that Ms. Rosett also contact Ms. Hebert because that may have been included in the scope of work in the Walker study.

Ms. Rosett said that the commission had received an email from a disgruntle citizen on Pine Hill Avenue after DPW had installed sharrows and shared bike signs and that DPW has removed the sign and Mr. Sotnik has spoken with the resident. She said she has also sent an email back to him thanking him for his input and he had suggested in the future contacting residents prior to sharrows or signs are installed. Ms. Rosett suggested as the commission moves toward with the five year bike and pedestrian plan that they be posted and a meeting be scheduled for anyone who would like to give their feedback on the plans.

Ms. Rosett said that the walk on Glover and Main Avenue that was done in June was done again on October 16<sup>th</sup> and that 18 people from city government , ConnDOT and politician had attended. She said that Mr. Yeosock has requested that funds be initiated from the CT DOT to make some improvements at the intersection on Main Avenue near the DMV.

Ms. Rosett said that the initial draft of the POCD was discussed at a meeting last Tuesday and all comments are due in on Friday, and the consultants should have the draft plan ready for the public by December. She said that there will be a public meeting held in January which she urged the commission to attend.

#### **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **a. Bike Plan**

There was no discussion.

##### **b. Events**

Ms. Rosett said that as part of the strategic plan that there is an event held once a quarter and Mr. Heslin has agreed to be the point person.

##### **c. Bike Share**

Ms. Rosett said that they are still waiting to the Legal Department to send a copy of the contract and she is hoping that the contact will be completed by the December meeting.

**d. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT)**

Mr. Carter stated the trail is underway from the Maritime Aquarium to Calf Pasture Beach, and the wayfinding sign has been installed today at the Maritime Aquarium in the location that was agreed upon with Parks and Recreation and the Redevelopment Agency. He said that the pad for the trail at Calf Pasture Beach has been completed and is located in the originally intended location near the café' and flag pole and the wayfinding sign will be installed in the next week. He said that he and Mr. Sotnik had walked the route between the two locations on Friday and have identified locations for sharrows and bike lanes where appropriate and are hoping to have them completed prior to the winter season.

Mr. Carter said that the NRVT is reviving the project of going through Veterans Park and are installing the bike track on the apron and that they are proactively trying to make it more bike and pedestrian friendly connection around Veterans Park.

Mr. Carter said that the trail in the cemetery is the only section that is not hard surfaced and has rutted with all of the rains and will be addressed prior to winter with volunteer efforts.

Mr. Carter provided an update on the missing link and there have been some delays from negotiations with the state on the language of the lease, and they have now reached an agreement that should be formalized shortly and are still anticipating going out to bid over the winter and meet the construction target this spring. He said on the Wil-Walk section which is the section from Grist Mill to Wolfpit Road there is a similar issue with the State on negotiating that lease as well. He said that Wilton is the formal holder of the grant and therefore are the point team for that section of the trail and they have not yet reached an agreement with the state, but he still expects that the agreement will be met and that construction will begin this spring on the section from Grist Mill to Kent Road.

**e. Pedestrian Plan**

Ms. Lewis said that there are a lot of ongoing things and they are working on balancing relationship building and understanding what is going on with near term goal setting. She said that they have put together a planning document and has looked to the Pedestrian Committee members who live in the areas to provide some background, and she has also reached out to members of the Common Council for their input for the goals and assets of their districts, and she has heard back from three and one of them has scheduled a phone call and two have given their ideas of what the strength of their districts are. She said that a short list will be developed for DPW of the unaddressed walking priorities. She said they are also looking at what ordinances pertain to sidewalks as well as crosswalks and those pertain to both DPW and Planning and Zoning, and she had a phone meeting with Ms. Burns of DPW to introduce herself and learn more about the ordinances and found that there are sidewalk ordinances but there are no ordinance for crosswalks. She said that

they are also looking at successful cities elsewhere that have made great strides in walking and Hartford has won a silver medal in walk ability and she will be scheduling a meeting with the head of their walking initiative.

Ms. Latham said that there are nursing students will be doing a month long internships at the Health Department and they have created a project for them which will help the Pedestrian Committee. She said that they will be analyzing some of the audit data that we already have and also work on doing more pedestrian audits using the scorecard that was created. She said they have met with the Pedestrian Committee to prioritize some areas where their efforts should be focused and she is hoping to update the committee in December on what they have accomplished so far.

Ms. D'Amore said that she is the staff person for Health, Welfare and Public Safety of the Common Council and they wanted to discuss infrastructure audits at their meetings and with Ms. Latham's help she has been trying to keep them in the loop with the Pedestrian Committee and the Bike Walk Commission and they welcome people to present at their meetings to update them. Mr. Scicchitano asked if there has been any coordination with the Board of Education on the walk ability of bus stops especially on Connecticut Avenue. Ms. Lewis said that is one of the areas that they will be recommending. Mr. Scicchitano suggesting working with the Board of Education on the bus stops for walk ability.

**f. Pump Track**

There was no discussion.

**g. Safety/Outreach**

Mr. Aley stated that he had received an email from Mr. Morgan stating that he is working on the NCC article and that he had reached out to NCC but has not yet received a response.

**h. Strategic Plan**

Ms. D'Amore presented and said they are trying to find a way to summarize the progress of strategic plan and she has created a dashboard. She said with the plan being created only four months ago that six of the activities have already been completed, 11 are ongoing or on target, three are in-progress or started, one is below target and three have not yet been started. She said even though we are not even through half the year there has already been a lot of activity with the strategic plan. She pointed out the activity that is below target which is related to posting new information to the commission's website at least once a month which is the goal that was set. She said that it is being done but that there is not necessarily new information every month and suggested that the category be changed to quarterly. There was discussion ensued and the commission agreed that the

goal for updates to the website be changed from monthly to quarterly. Ms. D'Amore said that at the end of the year that measure can be included for the goals which can then be presented to the Common Council.

**i. Website**

Mr. Franz said that he had no update but that he apologizes for leaving the commission but that he will continue to attend when he can. Ms. Rosett said that the commission appreciates the work Mr. Franz has done to date.

**j. Planning and Zoning Liaison**

Mr. Aley said that they are waiting for the Transportation Planner position to be filled. Ms. Rosett said that she is on the interview panel for that position but that they are currently working on filling the Chief of Economic and Community Development first. She said that they are hoping to hold the interviews for the Transportation Planner in November.

**k. Public Works Liaison**

There was no discussion.

**l. Redevelopment Liaison**

There was no discussion.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. DPW Update**

Mr. Sotnik said that the sharrows have been marked out on Fifth Street and Cove Avenue and will be sent to Safety Markings and are hoping to have them completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Sotnik said that the state had requested that the pavement markings for the shoulder lines and the double yellow line from East Avenue to Fort Point Street, and they have agreed to do it because there was a letter received from them in 2016 stating they had no objection to the city installing sharrows on route 136 providing we went through the permit process with the district. He said that the state had approved the sharrows and they have provided a map with the sharrows going down Van Zant Street and it will be done in the spring.

**b. Intersection of Westport Avenue and Dry Hill**

There was no discussion.

**c. Wall Street Crosswalk**

Mr. Aley said that there has been a request to install a rainbow crosswalk from Knight Street to Wall Street. He said that it would be the first one in the state and asked if the committee could support that. Mr. Scicchitano said that he is in favor of it but that his concern is that it may not be recognized as a crosswalk, and that it will also set a precedent that may not be legal and suggested that the Corporations Counsel's office be contacted for a legal opinion. There was further discussion and it was decided that the commission would provide primarily support upon further investigation by DPW.

Mr. Aley said that he has requested that there be parking spaces installed on East Wall Street this fall. Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Yeosock and Ms. King asked to wait on that because there may be a grant available for that area. Mr. Aley said that street parking tends to slow traffic down a lot and it does a lot to enhance the walk ability.

**d. Bike Trough Repair**

Mr. Sheehan said that the bike trough repair is a repair that needs to be made and will be made. Mr. Aley asked if there is a timeline. Mr. Sotnik said not yet.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Road Safety Audit for Route 1.**

There was no discussion.

**b. LOTCIP Grant Application for Main Avenue.**

There was no discussion.

Mr. Sheehan asked if sharrows are included as part of the improvements for West Washington Street. Mr. Sotnik said he will need to check with Mr. Yeosock. Mr. Sheehan said a question for the commission would be if sharrows are installed where they will lead to.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MR. ALEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MS. LEWIS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services