

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**DECEMBER 3, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Jud Aley; Christine Bisceglie

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

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment this evening.

**2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES**

The minutes were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Rosett welcomed Ms. Bisceglie to the committee and said the committee used to have a safety and outreach committee that has now been broken up and that Mr. Aley will continue to do the outreach, and Ms. Bisceglie will be taking over safety. She said that education has also been added to that because Ms. Bisceglie is certified with the League of American Bicyclists and is a trained instructor. She said if anyone on the committee would be interested in joining those efforts to let her know and she would be happy to put them on the committee.

Ms. Rosett said that the draft Plan of Conservation and Development should be available later this month, and it does contain a lot regarding biking and walking and as soon as it is publicly available, she will let the committee know. She said that there will be a public meeting held in January and said it is very important for everyone on the committee to express themselves on what they would like to see in the plan because it does have a tremendous effect on what Norwalk does in the next 10 years, as well as the effect on the capital budget. She encouraged the committee members to participate by either attending the public meeting, sending something in writing or both.

Ms. Rosett said when she had sent out some emails responding to a citizen regarding signage that was installed, she was reminded that business cannot be conducted outside of a formal meeting that is publicly noticed and where minutes are taken which includes corresponding by e-mail. She said that Mr. Grotheer had suggested training on the Freedom of Information Act and how it affects the commissioners and asked the committee if they would be interested in that training. The commission agreed and suggested holding a separate meeting from the regular committee meeting preferably on an evening during the week. Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Aley had also suggested inviting some of the newly appointed elected officials to a regular commission meeting.

Ms. Rosett said that the city will be hiring a Transportation Planner who will be the primary support person for the commission and that Ms. D'Amore has suggested moving the monthly committee meetings to City Hall rather than at the Health Department, and that room 101 is available the first Monday of the month. It was decided that beginning in January the committee meetings will be held at City Hall in room 101.

a. Bike Plan

Ms. Rosett said that they are forecasting 200 bikes for phase 1 of the bike share program which will hopefully happen in 2019. Mr. Sheehan asked if there will be an ongoing measurement as to how successful the program is. Ms. Rosett said that she would send Mr. Sheehan the RFP. Ms. Bisceglie suggested that the instructions be in both English and Spanish.

b. Events

Ms. Rosett said that she has been speaking with a representative of the River Brook YMCA and they are holding a safety event and asked if the committee would be interested in doing a bike rodeo course. She said that she had told them most likely not because they are already committed to Kiwanis to do a bike rodeo but that Sound Cyclists is going to be doing a bike rodeo course at the event and that if anyone on the committee would like to volunteer, they are welcome to do that.

c. Bike Share

Ms. Rosett said that the contract has gone out to P3GM last week and they have been working on recruiting sponsors.

d. Norwalk River Valley Trail

Mr. Sotnik said that the signs have been installed at Fifth Street and Cove Avenue and the sharrows will be installed in the spring.

e. Outreach

Mr. Aley said that Mr. Morgan has sent out a press release for the work that was done at Norwalk Community College. He also said that The Norwalk Hour had contacted Ms. Rosett last week to talk about crosswalks and that he and Ms. Rosett were on the first page of The Norwalk Hour today regarding crosswalks.

Mr. Aley said that he will begin to put together a presentation for when the elected officials are invited to attend the committee meetings and said that if anyone had any suggestions to send them to him.

f. Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Latham reported and said that the walk in Silvermine has been rescheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM. She said that the Pedestrian Committee has broken Norwalk up by Common Council districts and prioritized areas that are in need of pedestrian infrastructure improvements and she presented the outline which was also presented to DPW which include some upcoming projects that DPW will be working on. She said that a broad overview was done on what the committee has been doing in the specific Common Council member's districts which was sent to them to get their feedback and input and that Ms. Lewis will provide an update at next month's meeting. She also said they will be meeting at the Health Department on Thursday at 4:00PM if anyone is interested in attending.

Mr. Yeosock reported that over \$1 million dollars was spent on sidewalks last year, and over \$200,000 was spent on crosswalks. Mr. Aley suggested contacting Mr. Morgan to do a press release with that information. Mr. Sotnik said that they are in the process of having an audit done for street lighting and once that is complete, they will determine what the actual cost will be to switch the street lighting out to LED lights.

g. Pump Track

There was no discussion.

h. Safety and Education

Ms. Bisceglie said the markings are hazardous on Fitch Street @ Strawberry Hill Avenue. Ms. Rosett suggested that Ms. Bisceglie and Mr. Sotnik or Mr. Yeosock meet to discuss any possible options.

Ms. Bisceglie said that the intersection at Stew Leonard's and Dry Hill Road is also hazardous for pedestrians and that there is a residence with of over 25 disabled adults and there is not a crosswalk to get across the street. Mr. Yeosock said that the State has done an audit of the entire Route 1 corridor and that he is still waiting for that report. He said that they have requested funding to install crosswalks at that intersection and they will find out if that funding was approved in mid to late January.

i. Strategic Plan

There was no discussion.

j. Website

There was no discussion.

k. Planning and Zoning Liaison

Mr. Aley said that they are waiting for the Transportation Planner to be hired.

l. Public Works Liaison

Mr. Sotnik reported and said that by 2017 3.87 miles of sharrows had been installed, and in 2018 alone 3.27 miles of sharrows were installed. He said that if sharrows and bike lanes are installed on every road that is in the plan for 2019 the cost would be \$25,000.

m. Redevelopment Liaison

There was no discussion.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Walking Update

Ms. Latham provided an update and said that Smart Growth America had released something called Dangerous by Design and she had received an email from them stating they are looking for success stories from cities and towns that have improved pedestrian safety and asked the committee if that is something they would like to submit and if so, who would like to volunteer to help her. It was decided that Richards Avenue should be included as the success story and Ms. Rosett volunteered to work with Ms. Latham on the questioner.

b. DPW Update

Mr. Sotnik said that a work order has been issued for the Clay Streets stairs and that the work has been scheduled for the first week in January.

c. Transportation, Mobility and Parking Update

Mr. Sotnik said that DPW has filed for five local improvement grants and they should see if they will receive the grant by January. Mr. Yeosock said they are also looking for funding to install crosswalks on Main Avenue near the Department of Motor Vehicles, Richards Avenue @ Connecticut Avenue and the complete streets effort on West Rocks Road from Blue Mountain Road to the Merritt Parkway.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Places for Bikes

Ms. Rosett said the Places for Bike survey that was done last year will be done again this year, and that she had received an e-mail from Mr. Heslin stating that the committee should plan for protected bike lanes and she suggested they be installed on Martin Luther King Drive.

b. Two nursing students from the UCONN reported on the Pedestrian Audit and said that their target population was mainly pedestrians, but it also affects the people who are operating motor vehicles and they did see a lot of hazardous areas when they had done the audit and that they had done the audit on Connecticut Avenue. They said that when they had looked into the police data report there had been 12 car accidents and that they are very surprised there was not more. They presented their audit and said that the auditing sheets need to be presented to a larger audience and get more community members involved and they created a how to video which they presented and suggested it to be used on social media. They also suggested that The Health Department get a social media intern to manage the social media to keep people informed of what is going on.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services