

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Jud Aley; Christine Bisceglie; Deborah Lewis; Colin Grotheer;

OTHERS: Kaitlin Latham; Health Department; Mike Yeosock, Asst. Director of Transportation & Mobility and Parking; Paul Sotnik, DPW Senior Engineer, Gary Washinski

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:10PM.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Washinski introduced himself and said that he is a Transportation Planner in New York City and he was in the bike and pedestrian unit for many years there.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. January 7, 2019  
\*\* **MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**  
\*\* **MR. GROTHEER SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
\*\* **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Rosett reported and said that the FOI training will be held following the next commission meeting on March 4, 2019 at 7:30PM. Ms. Lewis said that the commission is liable similar to any not for profit Board of Directors and the City of Norwalk has insurance that covers that.

Ms. Rosett said that an offer letter has gone out to a candidate for the Transportation Planner position and they have until this Friday to accept the position.

Ms. Rosett said that the bike parking signs have been installed for all of the municipal bike racks in the city with the exception of the South Norwalk Railroad Stations where the bike racks are obvious. She said that she had sent out an email asking the commission's email list if they had any additional locations that they would like bike racks and Ms. Latham had responded and her suggestions included Washington Street, SONO parking lots, major shopping centers and Cranbury Park. Ms. Bisceglie also suggested Mill Pond Park. Mr. Grotheer suggested installing bike corals on Washington and Wall Streets. Ms. Rosett suggested that she meet with Mr. Aley and Mr. Grotheer to look at the possible location sites.

Ms. Rosett said that the group for the artistic crosswalks had met again last Tuesday and the group is working on a policy and procedure for for installation of an artistic crosswalk requests and that it should be completed in March, and once it has been completed, she will circulate it to the commission. She said that the test was going to be the rainbow crosswalk on Wall Street but Ms. Hebert has been trying to contact the business owner that had requested it but has been unsuccessful. Mr. Yeosock said that he still believes the crosswalk will be installed they just need to determine the exact location due to the ongoing projects in the area.

Mr. Rosett provided an update regarding Paul Sedlak who was hit by a motorist on Fallow Street while riding his bike and said that he had stated that he had sent an email to Deputy Chief Walsh and did not get a response so she had reached out the Lt. Blake. She said he had suggested that she contact Deputy Chief Walsh and he had responded and said that the Officer did not issue a citation based on the general circumstances. She said that Mr. Sedlak was not happy with that response so she and Mr. Sedlak met with Deputy Chief Walsh last week and he provided an explanation on the officers point of view and he had agreed that the driver was found at fault and there would be nothing added by ticketing, and if they had issued a ticket and she contested it the Judge would generally dismiss the ticket and the repercussion of that could be that the insurance company would refuse to pay. She said that Mr. Sedlak was not happy with that response and is researching how many motor vehicle accidents of that type had occurred in Norwalk and whether the driver was given a citation or not, and what kind of training the police receive on how they handle incidences involving cyclists and pedestrians. Deputy Chief Walsh requested that Mr. Sedlak send him an email and he will bring the request to the Chief of Police.

Mr. Rosett said that she and Mr. Aley had met with Jessica Casey who is the new Chief of Economic and Community Development this morning and discussed the strategic plan and the agenda for the Bike Walk Commission and had invited her to attend the meeting. Mr. Aley said that he had discussed the benefits of walk ability and bike ability with her. Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Aley had given her an impressive handout that he had developed that included articles about other municipalities that have done good things for biking and walking and she had already worked with some of the people who were in the handout.

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

**a. Bike Plan**

There was no discussion.

**b. Events**

Ms. Rosett said that the Kiwanis Club is having its bike rodeo on the first Saturday in May and that more information on that will be given next month.

**c. Bike Share**

Ms. Rosett said that the contract is still in negotiations and will hopefully be signed soon.

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

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Carter is out of town and he will provide a report at next month's meeting.

**e. Outreach**

There was no discussion.

**f. Pedestrian Plan**

Ms. Lewis reported and said that she is still leading the Silvermine walk and they are still looking for leaders to lead walks in other parts of town. Ms. Bisceglie said that United Way has a website for volunteers and suggested posting there.

Ms. Lewis said that the other thing the Bike Committee is currently working on is doing an assessment of crosswalks and signage at the schools for the health and safety of children and they will report their findings to the commission.

**g. Pump Track**

There was no discussion.

**h. Safety and Education**

Ms. Bisceglie reported and said that volunteers are needed for the Safety and Education Committee. Ms. Rosett suggested that she reach out to Mr. Scicchitano. Ms. Bisceglie said that she will also be reaching out to the parents in Norwalk.

Ms. Bisceglie said that she would like to order the quick check cards for the bike rodeo with the logo in both English and Spanish. Ms. Rosett requested that she forward the draft copy of the cards and she will present it to them at the meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow evening. She also said that they could have a table at the rodeo and invited Ms. Bisceglie to also attend the meeting.

**i. Strategic Plan**

There was no discussion.

**j. Website**

Ms. Latham said that if there are any minor changes that the committee would like to make to send them to her as soon as possible. Ms. Rosett said she is planning to meet with Ms. Hebert, Mr. Kleppin and Ms. D'Amore because they are the departments that support the Bike Walk Commission to discuss who will be taking over the tasks that Ms. Latham has been responsible for.

**k. Planning and Zoning Liaison**

Mr. Aley they are waiting on the Transportation Planner position to be filled.

**l. Public Works Liaison**

There was no discussion.

**m. Redevelopment Liaison**

There was no discussion.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Walking Update**

Ms. Latham said that once she confirms the next walk in Silvermine with Ms. Lewis she will let the committee know via e-mail once it has been confirmed.

**b. DPW Update**

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Mr. Sotnik reported and said that that Artistic Ironworks will be doing the welding on the handrails on Clay Street tomorrow.

Mr. Sotnik said that on January 21, 2019, Mayor Rilling has received a letter from WestCog stating that they are committing \$1.52 million dollars for streetscape/road project at East Wall Street and Landmark Square area. He said the construction will most like not start before the spring on 2020 due to the ongoing projects in the area.

Mr. Sotnik said they are still working on the measurements for the bike lanes for the list of streets that they have.

**c. Transportation, Mobility and Parking Update**

Mr. Yeosock reported and said the grant was approved and will include installing sidewalks on Hunters Lane to connect Ponus Ridge School with Ponus Avenue as well as the sharrows on route 136. Ms. Bisceglie asked if additional signage will be installed for the increase in pedestrian traffic. Mr. Yeosock said “yes”. Mr. Sotnik said that some of the streets include what was on the list for the grant and that grant funds will be used on those streets rather than using capital funds.

Mr. Yeosock said that they are researching installing diagonal back in parking on Wall Street to help slow traffic down and to also add additional parking. They would also like to put diagonal back in parking on River Street as well as in front of the Ford dealer on Main. He said that there will be presentation given to the community at the end of the month. Mr. Aley asked how many additional parking spaces will be gained. Mr. Yeosock said approximately 12 spaces. Mr. Grotheer asked what the implementation schedule is. Mr. Yeosock said that it will be done this year. He said that are also looking a possibly installing parallel parking on Belden Avenue to Wall Street in front of Freese Park.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business discussed this evening.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
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Telesco Secretarial Services