

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Jud Aley; Vincent Scicchitano; Christine Bisceglie; Deborah Lewis; Colin Grotheer; Mike Heslin

OTHERS: Deanna D'Amore, Director, Health Department; Kaitlin Latham; Health Department; Paul and Nancy Sedlack

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Sedlack stated on November 30, 2018, at 7:00AM he was riding from his home in Darien to Norwalk and was on Fillow Street when he was struck by a car that was turning into Kendall School. He said when he received the police report he was astonished that the driver was not given a ticket even though she was found to be at fault. He said that he had contacted Deputy Chief Walsh to inquire why no ticket was given and the Deputy Chief has never responded. Ms. Lewis asked Mr. Sedlak when he had sent to e-mail. Mr. Sedlak said on December 17, 2018. Ms. Rosett said that she has forwarded his e-mail to Lt. Terry Blake and that she will also contact Deputy Chief Walsh and let Mr. Sedlak know what his response is.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. November 5th
** **MR. SCICCHATANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**
** **MR. ALEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. December 3rd

**** MR. HESLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

**** MS. GROTHEER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION- (MR. SCICCHATANO).**

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Rosett reported and said that she has been trying to schedule training and asked the committee if they are in favor of holding the training following a monthly commission meeting once a quarter and choose one topic to discuss at each session. She said she is trying to get someone to speak on Freedom of Information and if possible, would like training on February 4, 2019, but if there is no speaker available suggested going over the studies that Mr. Aley has wanted to share with the commission. The commission agreed to hold the first session on February 4, 2019.

Ms. Rosett said that she had attended a Freedom of Information Act training a few months ago and discovered that committees of the commission are also subject to Freedom of Information which would require that an agenda be made available and minutes taken and posted within seven days of the meeting, and that all votes also need to be posted within two days of the meeting. Mr. Grotheer and Mr. Heslin voiced their concerns regarding the Freedom of Information requirements for the sub-committees and suggested that all the sub-committees be abolished and all work under the Bike Walk Commission and have point people for certain initiatives. Ms. Lewis said there is work that is accomplished on the Pedestrian Committee that could not be accomplished at the Bike Walk Commission meetings. Mr. Heslin said that he and Mr. Grotheer do not want to discuss or act on anything until the requirements of Freedom of Information are clarified. Ms. Rosett suggested he contact the Law Department. Mr. Aley suggested that the sub-committees continue as they have unless there is a meeting at a designated site. Ms. Rosett said on February 4, 2019 she will have someone attend the meeting to attend the meeting for training on Freedom of Information.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Bike Plan

There was no discussion.

b. Events

Ms. Rosett said if Mr. Heslin wants to order some giveaways for the bike rodeo in May that they need to have a discussion.

c. Bike Share

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

d. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT)

There was no discussion.

e. Outreach

Mr. Aley said that he has spoken with Mr. Morgan regarding the article he put together for the NCC road improvements and he has gotten some response from social media. He will be requesting that it also be made available in print form. He said that he had also left a book with Kathryn Hebert as well as Mike Yeosock and Paul Sotnik regarding road diets. Ms. Rosett suggested that he continue working on scheduling a meeting with the politicians.

f. Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Lewis said that three of the locations that that the committee had identified for goals by district are already in an application for grants so they will be meeting tomorrow to discuss backup goals. She said the three locations that they are trying to secure funding for are Dry Hill Road @ Westport Avenue, Grist Mill @ Main Avenue and Connecticut Avenue. Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Yeosock should know if the grants were approved by the end of January.

Ms. Lewis said the Pedestrian Committee is trying to schedule field trips to other cities to look at examples of their bike and walking routes.

g. Pump Track

There was no discussion.

h. Safety and Education

Ms. Bisceglie reported and said that she had attended the last Traffic Authority meeting and they discussed and were interested in installing a three way stop sign at the intersection on Fitch Street. Mayor Rilling had requested that Mr. Yeosock interview the residents.

i. Strategic Plan

Ms. D'Amore presented and said that one of the categories that was below target is now on target and we are halfway through the year and are doing very well. She said that if anyone on the committee has any changes that have not been captured to send them to her and she will update the plan. Ms. Rosett said that they did inventory the existing bike parking and there are now signs for all of the existing bike parking. She also said if anyone on the committee had suggestions where signage is needed for bicycle parking in any city owned facilities to send them to her. She said that there is also a mailing list of 90 people and that she will also said be emailing the group to let them know where the existing bike racks are and also ask their input of where they see other locations where bike racks are needed.

j. Website

Ms. Latham said that she has not updated the website but if there is anything the committee would like her to post to send it to her and she will update it. Ms. Rosett asked if the website can be reorganized. Ms. Latham said that she will contact their support to work on that.

k. Planning and Zoning Liaison

Mr. Aley they are waiting on the Transportation Planner position to be filled. Ms. Rosett said they have interviewed three candidates and have asked one back for a second interview.

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 the January walk was held this past Saturday led by Ms. Lewis and the next walk is scheduled for February 2, 2019, at Silvermine School. Ms. Bisceglie said that she may be interested in leading the walks in South Norwalk. Ms. Latham requested that she contact her to discuss if that would be something she would be interested in leading.

b. DPW Update

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Sotnik they are planning for the painting will begin in the spring.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Accident Database

Ms. Latham presented that accident database and said that it captures all of the police reports with any altercation involving a vehicle. She said the website is ctcrash.uconn.edu and they have data back as far as 1995.

b. Artistic Crosswalks

Ms. Rosett said that there is a group in Norwalk that would like to see a rainbow crosswalk across Wall Street and there is a meeting scheduled tomorrow at 10:00AM. She said that it is a continuation of the first meeting to discuss cost, maintenance etc. and asked the committee their thoughts regarding artistic crosswalks. Mr. Heslin said he does not think it should be specifically allowed for one group and that they should be consistent throughout the town. Mr. Scicchitano said that he is in favor of them but that it is subjective for the people that are looking at it and that is not a decision that should be made by this committee as to what is artistic and what is not. Ms. Lewis questioned if the crosswalks are as effective as a regular crosswalk. Mr. Grotheer said that he has no issue with the concept and the application should be a modification to a standard crosswalk or a replacement of a standard crosswalk and should be non-commercial. Ms. Rosett said that she appreciates the committee's input and she will report back on the outcome of tomorrow's meeting at next month's meeting.

c. POCD Position Statement

Ms. Rosett said that comments can be made to the document online and she strongly urged the committee members to do that. She said there is a meeting tomorrow at 5:30PM to discuss Wall Street and West Avenue plans and the following two Tuesdays at 7:30PM in the Community Room at City Hall for input on the POCD. She said that if the commission feels that they would like to make a statement she would be happy to read it into the statement and presented a draft statement to the commission. The commission agreed that a statement should be read into the record and made their recommend changes to the draft statement.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. HESLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. SCICCHATANO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services