

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 3, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Deborah Lewis; Colin Grotheer; Barbara McCabe;
Jud Aley; Gary Washinsky, Kelly Kultys

OTHERS: Deanna D'Amore, Director, Health Department; Mike Yeosock, Asst.
Director, Transportation, Mobility and Parking

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rosett called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. May 6th

**** MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** MS. McCABE SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Rosett said Mr. Scicchitano's term will expire after tonight's meeting and he does not wish to continue. We are looking for someone to join the commission. She said there is a state law that says that a seven member body can have no more than five people from any one party and the commission has five Democrats so the vacant must filled by someone who is not registered as a Democrat. She said that Ms. Bisceglie and Ms. McCabe have agreed to run for another term.

Ms. Rosett said that a training session for the commission that was scheduled to be held after tonight's meeting has been postponed until after the July meeting and she will send out the information about that.

Ms. Rosett thanked Ms. Hebert for getting a very prominent bike parking sign at the East Norwalk Railroad Station.

Ms. Rosett said that she was contacted by Ms. Smith who is the Executive Director of Bike Walk Connecticut and they have a bike safety curriculum for Physical Education teachers in elementary schools and she would like to get it into other schools. Ms. Rosett put her in touch with the Board of Education's Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Brenda Meyers. Ms. Lewis suggested that walking is also incorporated into the curriculum.

Ms. Rosett said that she has met with Mr. Roberts, the new Director of Recreation and Parks and she told him the commission would like a bike rack in Mill Pond Park. They have installed the concrete pad for it and are now in search of a bike rack.

Ms. Rosett said that the commission received an email from Ms. Cozzarin regarding speeding.

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Yeosock had found a Made to Move grant but the application requires towns of over 100,000 people. Mr. Washinsky suggested in the future to apply jointly with Wilton.

Ms. Rosett said that NorWALKer program will continue this year to sponsor walks prior to the Wednesday evening concerts at the Calf Pasture Beach and will again raffle off two gift certificates to Ripka's each day.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Bike Plan

Mr. Grotheer said that he had met with Mr. Mushak and discussed a bicycle master plan that will be coordinated with the DPW paving plan.

b. Events

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Scicchitano was planning an event in conjunction with the Taste of East Norwalk but that has now been cancelled. She will be following up with him to see if he is still planning to do the event. She said she contacted Sgt. Gulino of the police department to see if they will be a part of National Night Out and they will be. She said

the event will be held the first Tuesday evening in August and we will have a table. She said we will also participate in the DPW open house in the fall.

c. Bike Share

Ms. Rosett said that the vendor has almost completed the locations of where they would like to install the 10 bike share stations and she will be meeting with them later in June.

d. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT)

Ms. Rosett said that the bids are going out for the missing link. Mr. Yeosock said the state is making their comments on the last submission and the goal is to have it out to bid by the end of June.

e. Outreach

Mr. Aley said that Mr. Morgan did a press release on the bike troth as part of a series of four press releases he did during May for National Bike Month.

f. Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Lewis reported and said the Pedestrian Committee is focusing on the schools and there are three initiatives that are ongoing with the schools. She said that Ms. Mc Cabe and the rest of the members of the committee have photographed the crosswalks, sidewalks and signage at each of the public schools and are in the process of rating them. Ms. Myer-Mitchell attended the last Pedestrian Committee meeting and she is excited to survey the parents. Ms. Argondezzi has developed a draft of the survey that will be posted. Ms. Lewis said she also contacted Dr. Adamowski and he referred her to Mr. Hamilton. She is also following up with Mr. Lo.

Ms. Lewis said the next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2019 and most of the committee had agreed to a one-year term so she will ask them if they want to continue for another year. They will be looking at their goals.

Ms. Lewis said that there is a walk scheduled his Saturday in Silvermine.

g. Safety and Education

Ms. Rosett said The Wilton/Norwalk YMCA will again be having a program at Brien McMahon High School this summer to help kids train to do a mini triathlon by the end of summer. Ms. Bisceglie will be working with their staff on training them on bicycle

skills. She said that Ms. Bisceglie has also reached out to Parks and Recreation offering to lead sessions on safe bicycling in their summer camps.

h. Strategic Plan

Ms. Rosett said as discussed at last months meeting the goals for strategic plan mirror the ordinance that created the commission but added specific tasks. Ms. D'Amore presented the Strategic Plan with the changes proposed for next year and said that there was one goal around the POCD that she is proposing to incorporate under goal number four. She said she is also proposing all of the other goals remain the same and she will update the objectives and activities based on where we are now. Ms. Lewis said the mission statement is wonderful in that it is comprehensive but should be more concise and she will make recommendations. Ms. Rosett said that she is open to any improvements. Ms. Lewis said she is also advocating for having a policy and not just programs and facilities and under section 1.0 she is recommending a complete streets policy.

Mr. Grotheer asked if there is a five year plan what the master plan is. He also asked if it is within the purview of the commission to update it because we are not an official agency that has concrete teeth and are volunteers. He also questioned why we are doing the work that staff should be doing to sign and maintain the official plans. Ms. Rosett said that language is from the ordinance that created the commission and will need to eventually be changed because of the changes to the structure within the city government due to the reorganization. She said that it is her suggestion is that in sections two and three to leave the language that is currently there because it is in sync with the ordinance. She is hoping that by the end of the summer they will be in the position to request changes to the Ordinance Committee.

Ms. D'Amore suggested over the next two weeks if the commission has any comments to either e-mail or call her. If not she will work on the plan from the discussions at tonight's meeting and bring it to the July meeting for a vote.

i. Website

There was no discussion.

j. Walking Update

There was no discussion.

k. DPW Update

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Sotnik will no longer be part of the commission because his manager feels that the Transportation, Mobility and Parking department is the more appropriate group to provide the updates.

i. Transportation, Mobility and Parking Update

Mr. Yeosock said the Wall Street plan has been postponed. He said they had run into an issue when installing the crosswalk and the area will now be back filled and the sidewalk will be put back in place. The ramp will be installed as part of the grant project. Ms. Rosett suggesting installing a test and learn section on the north side of East Wall Street and installing a bike lane on the south side. Mr. Gotheer asked what the implementation plan is for the back in angled parking. Mr. Yeosock said they are hoping to have it completed this summer.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed this evening.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MS. LEWIS SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services