

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Deborah Lewis; Barbara McCabe; Jud Aley;
Christine Bisceglie; Gary Washinsky

OTHERS: Deana D'Amore, Director of Health; Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner;
Brian Brown

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment this evening.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. July 1st

**** MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MS. BISCEGLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Rosett reported and said due to the reorganization city offices are moving into different locations at City Hall so there is currently not a conference room on the first floor to hold the meeting and suggested the meeting location be moved to the DPW conference room. Mr. Aley said that the Parking Authority also has two very nice conference rooms and one is located at the

Yankee Doodle Garage and the other at the Maritime Garage and suggested that may be a possibility. Ms. Rosett said that she will contact Ms. Hebert.

Ms. Rosett said that the bike rack has been installed at Mill Pond Park and she has sent Mr. Roberts a thank you note.

Ms. Rosett said that National Night Out will be held tomorrow night at the Police Department from 5:00PM to 8:00PM and Ms. McCabe has volunteered to help with setting up. Ms. Lewis and Ms. Bisceglie said that they will also be volunteering. Ms. Rosett said that they will be handing out backpacks, distributing the guidelines from the League of American Bicyclists in both English and Spanish and a handout on how to properly fit a bicycle helmet. She is also hoping to gather additional names for the email list.

Ms. Rosett said there is also another event called PARK(ing) which will be held on September 21st and it is a national one-day event that allows business's and community members to convert on-street parking spaces into pedestrian friendly urban parks. She said that Stamford did it last year and are planning on doing it again this year. She asked if this is something the commission is interested in doing. There was a discussion ensued and it was decided to wait until next year to hold the event in Norwalk to allow time for planning.

Ms. Rosett said that the Land Trust is spearheading an urban mapping project partner with Hudson Housatonic and are meeting with municipal government officials and conservation groups and the Bike Walk Commission has been invited to join them. Their first meeting will be held the last week in August and she will report back at the September meeting.

Ms. Rosett said that she has requested that Mayor Rilling appoint Mr. Brown to the Bike Walk Commission to fill the vacancy and are hoping to have it on the next Common Council meeting agenda. Mr. Brown provide an overview of his background and his interest in joining the Bike Walk Commission.

Ms. Rosett asked if we should remove the Outreach standing report from the agenda now that Josh Morgan is on board as is doing most of that for us. The commission agreed.

Ms. Rosett said that a crosswalk will be installed near the green at St. Paul's Church and there will be a pedestrian activated RRFD so that they cars will slow down when a pedestrian is crossing. She said it was approved at the last Traffic Authority meeting and the Mayor had requested that additional signage also be installed to encourage pedestrians to look both ways before crossing the street.

Ms. Rosett said there was a meeting held with Mr. Carr and Ms. Casey regarding East Wall Street. She said that originally there was going to be parking temporarily installed on both sides of the hill to slow down traffic so that pedestrians can have a chance to cross the street but the City's engineers did not find that to be safe. At the meeting there were four options presented and she presented a map of the best option and it will be presented to the Traffic Authority at the August meeting. She said Mr. Grotheer had also requested a physical barrier between the bike lane and the road and staff said that they would look into that.

Ms. Rosett said there is an MLK Boulevard initiative and there is a group that has some funding to perform a study of the area. They are almost ready to break up into subcommittees for education, housing and community development and she is hoping the commission will be part of the community development subcommittee. She will send an email to the committee to see who may be interested in participating once the subcommittee is formed.

Ms. Rosett said that the commission is scheduled to meet with the Mayor to discuss the Strategic Plan and review what the committee has accomplished on Monday, August 19th from 11:30AM-12:00PM and asked if anyone on the committee who is interested in attending the meeting to contact her. She said the bike share program will also be discussed. Mr. Aley, Ms. McCabe, Ms. Bisceglie and Ms. Lewis said that they would like to attend the meeting. Ms. Rosett said that they will have a meeting invite sent to them.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Bike Plan

Mr. Aley said that there was a meeting held and they are working on the future routes and the striping to install bike lanes or sharrows building on the current network. Ms. Rosett said that they are trying to establish a multiyear plan. Mr. Pacelli said that he is working on a plan for sharrows on route 136 as well as on Richards Avenue up to the New Canaan border and it should be presented to the state over the winter and implemented in the spring. Ms. Rosett requested bike route signs be installed.

b. Events

Ms. Rosett said to contact her if anyone is interested in filling the vacancy on the events committee.

c. Bike Share

Ms. Rosett said that she met with the vendor a few weeks ago and provided an overview of the first ten stations and will be finalizing the precise locations within the areas. The first ten stations will be located at the westbound side of the South Norwalk railroad station, the eastbound side of the South Norwalk railroad station, the Norwalk Police Department, Vet's Park at the boat dock, the Maritime Garage, the Webster Lot (near the movie theater), Mathew's Park, the Norwalk Library (main branch), Yankee Doodle Garage and the Main Street Lot. We are looking for an alternative near SoNo for the South Norwalk Public Library. For each station there is an advertising panel required as part of the contract and she asked the committee to contact her if that had any possible locations in mind. Mr. Aley suggested West Avenue as a possible location.

d. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT)

Ms. Rosett said there has been no change since last month.

e. Outreach

There was no report.

f. Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Lewis reported and provided an overview of where the committee is on their goals. 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 there is a link for that and they will be creating a simple assessment for the schools.

g. Safety and Education

Ms. Rosett extended a huge thank you to Ms. Bisceglie for teaching the bike safety and education at the Norwalk Summer Camps. Ms. Bisceglie said that over 450 children had attended and received handouts. She has asked Nick Roberts to distribute an evaluation for the staff to complete about the program.

Ms. Bisceglie suggested the commission join the League of American Bicyclists and look for a business in Norwalk to apply for a bike friendly business designation from the League. Ms. Rosett asked her to research what's involved and report back.

h. Strategic Plan

Ms. D'Amore presented the Strategic Plan and there was discussion on the edits and changes.

i. Website

There was no discussion.

j. Walking Update

There was no discussion.

k. Transportation, Mobility and Parking Update

Ms. Rosett presented the report as neither Ms. Hebert nor Mr. Yeosock were able to attend the meeting. The sharrow projects left over from last year on 5th Ave, Cove Ave, Wolfpit Av, Knowalot Ave, Partrick Ave and Field St are done. Strawberry Hill north of Westport Av (Route 1) and Cranbury are left to be done. And Van Zant sharrows are waiting until the traffic signal upgrade contract work is completed which should be in the couple of weeks. Once all are done, the GIS map on our web page will be updated.

The Transportation Mobility and Parking Department received an application from the Triangle group to install a rainbow crosswalk on West Avenue at Mathews Park. The Traffic Authority approved the installation at its July meeting. The Rainbow will be painted around the brick paver crosswalk essentially like a border to the crosswalk.

The street around the brick pavers is crumbling and needs to be milled and paved, this will help to maintain the rainbow for a longer period of time and it will look a lot better to begin with. The TMP department will go out to bid mid-August to include the milling, paving and rainbow crosswalk painting. The turnaround time will a few weeks and once the contractor is selected, we will go through the process for Common Council approval.

5. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Existing Studies

Mr. Aley presented a brief overview of the existing studies. Ms. Rosett said there will be a meeting held in August for the final draft of the POCD and once the date has been scheduled, she will inform the committee members.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services