

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Nancy Rosett, Chair; Barbara McCabe, Christine Bisceglie, Deborah Lewis, Brian Brown, Colin Grotheer (6:10PM); Jud Aley (6:10PM)

**OTHERS:** Deana D'Amore, Director of Health; Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner; Kathryn Hebert, Director, Transportation, Mobility and Parking; Jim Carter, Tanner Thompson

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**1.PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

Two students from the University of Bridgeport attended the meeting because they were writing a paper on a team meeting.

**2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES**

**\*\* MR. BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. CHAIRS REPORT**

Ms. Rosett reported and said that she has been working with Ms. Archer of the Transportation, Mobility and Parking Department to order business cards and she presented a draft of the business card to the committee. Ms. D'Amore suggested we ask IT to create shortened URLs for our website as well as the links to our agendas and minutes.

Ms. Rosett thanked the City of Norwalk for installing a crosswalk across East Avenue @ St. Paul's Place. It was something the commission and several other community groups have been interested in for some time.

Ms. Rosett said she has been working with the Ordinance Committee to change the ordinance that created the commission so that it aligns with the reorganization of government. It was passed at the last Common Council meeting of October 22, 2019.

Ms. Rosett said that she and Mr. Carter had met with Mr. Carr and Mr. Roberts regarding bicycle and pedestrian access in Calf Pasture Beach due to the development that the Gardella's are proposing. She said they agreed that whatever happens with the roadway the NRVT trailhead will be moved over near the boat launch and there will eventually be a bike lane around the perimeter. She said the change will be good for both bicyclists and pedestrians.

Ms. Rosett said that she, Mr. Washinsky and Ms. Mc Cabe attended last week's meeting on the plan for East Wall Street. Ms. Hebert said it is scheduled to be completed by 2020.

Ms. Rosett said that she and Ms. Lewis will be giving a brief education presentation to the Norwalk Public Schools Physical Education teachers tomorrow. Ms. Lewis provided an overview of the presentation and said they will be discussing basic laws that pertain to bicycling and pedestrian use.

Ms. Rosett said beginning January, 2020 the commission meetings will be held in room 101.

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Yeosock has designed the signage for the bike troth and will be obtaining some pricing.

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Yeosock had found a grant of \$1,500 that she thought can be used to print additional NorWALKer booklets but the Health Department has enough funds and asked the commission if they can think of anything else the funds can be used for. She said that she will be meeting with Mr. Morgan on Wednesday afternoon to fill out the grant application and that it is due on Friday. Ms. Lewis suggested safety belts and that she will provide Ms. Rosett with a sample. Mr. Tanner suggested the funding if received go toward the infrastructure. Mr. Grotheer suggested purchasing the yield to pedestrian signs and target the crosswalks where they are most needed. Mr. Brown said the lighted speed limit signs are highly effective. The committee agreed that the yield to pedestrian signs should be purchased if funding is received from the grant.

**\*\* MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT AND PURCHASE OF AS MANY YIELD TO PEDESTRIAN SIGNS THAT THE GRANT FUNDING WILL ALLOW.**

**\*\* MR. GROTHEER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **4. STANDING REPORTS**

a. Bike Plan

Mr. Grotheer said they will be meeting on November 11, 2019 to prioritize the plan for 2020. Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Yeosock will be providing the available funds that are in the capital budget. Ms. Hebert said that the budget requests are due this week and requested that the capital budget request be submitted to her on November 11, 2019 if possible.

Mr. Grotheer said that he and Ms. Rosett met with Mr. Yeosock and Mr. Pacelli and reviewed the list of priorities and agreed to identify specific priorities for 2020.

b. Events

Ms. Mc Cabe said that she has been speaking with Ms. Argondezzi to start a mall walking program which they think can eventually turn into one of the NorWALKer routes. She asked the commission if that is within the mission of the commission. Ms. Rosett said this would be similar to the summer concert walks at the beach that are cosponsored by Recreation & Parks, the Health Department and the Bike Walk Commission. The commission all agreed that mall walking program is a great concept.

Ms. Mc Cabe asked if the commission thought the cargo bike documentary should be shown to the community and said if so, they would need to schedule a room at City Hall. She said the cost for under 100 people is \$400, and for under 50 people is \$250 which includes a packet. Ms. Bisceglie suggested scheduling a room at the Library.

c. Bike Share

Ms. Rosett said that PG3M has contacted the city and said their management has decided to get out of the bike share business. Ms. Hebert said that they have sent her an email stating their board of directors had decided to get out of the bike share business and focus on something else. She said the contract is currently with the Corporations Counsel's office. She said the city will need to determine which direction they would like to go now from a micro mobility point of view.

d. Norwalk River Valley Trail

Mr. Carter said that the parties that have been in dispute which are the five towns and various state agencies have reached an agreement in principle. He said rather than granting a master lease for the entire trail, every time a specific parcel is constructed, they will consider that particular parcel. He said that it has not yet been officially signed but that they are ready to sign.

Mr. Carter said they were required to do a phase I environmental study for the Missing Link which has been completed and has come back clean. He said if all goes well Mayor Rilling will sign the agreement in November, or if it determined that it will need to go back to the Common Council again for approval it will be on the next Common Council agenda and then go to Mayor Rilling to be signed and should go out to be bid early next year.

e. Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Brown said that a Pedestrian Committee meeting was held on October 22, 2019, and went through the plan and he is still working on the reformatting and he should have it completed by the end of the week and he will send it out to both the Pedestrian Committee and this commission. He said the next meeting is scheduled for November

19<sup>th</sup> and will try to schedule the Pedestrian Committee meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 2:00PM at the Health Department library.

f. Safety and Education

Ms. Bisceglie suggested having a table at the SONO Collection for the Bike Walk Commission to display materials.

g. Strategic Plan

Ms. D'Amore presented and reported on the highlights and said she has added an old hold status to the bike share program. She said there are currently six things that are on target, two are in progress, four that have not yet been started and two are on hold. Mr. Pacelli said that he is working on a grant for the sharrows on Route 136 and are in the final phasing for preliminary design and will be putting together a final design to submit to the state this winter. Mr. Grotheer requested that the plan be presented to the commission before it is submitted to the state.

h. Website

Mr. Brown said after last month's meeting he made some changes to the website and Ms. Rosett has also submitted some changes that he will forward to Ms. Argondezzi by Friday.

i. Walking Update

There was no update.

j. Transportation Planner Update

Mr. Pacelli presented an update and said after the connectivity grant it will add another 17 miles of sharrows.

Mr. Pacelli said that he is working on safe routes to school draft plan for Highland Avenue that will service four schools. Mr. Grotheer asked what the typical street width they are looking at. Mr. Pacelli said approximately 28' wide so the road is not wide enough for bike lanes. Mr. Grotheer suggested as an alternate to bike lanes if it can be posted as a bike route and request a 4' shoulder if that is available. Mr. Pacelli said that staff will look into it. Ms. Rosett requested that Mr. Pacelli present the draft plan to the commission at next month's meeting.

Mr. Pacelli said that Mr. Yeosock provided an update for Strawberry Hill Avenue and Fitch Street and said that there are traffic counts out and there is a possibility of a stop sign or signal at that location.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Hebert said that staff had made a mistake at the last meeting and that Martin Luther King Drive is not a state road but is a city road.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business discussed.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services