

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
AUGUST 3, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Rosett, Chair; Barbara McCabe; Jud Aley; Christine Bisceglie;
Colin Gotheer; Tanner Thompson

OTHERS: Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner; Kathryn Hebert, Director of
Transportation, Mobility and Parking; Michael Yeosock, Asst. Director of
Transportation, Mobility and Parking; Jim Carter; Gary Washinsky

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoon, and/or the City of
NorwalkYouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at
<http://www.norwalkct.org/meetings>.

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input this evening.

2. APPROVAL OF JULY 6TH MINUTES

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

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Rosett reported and said the Connecticut Department of Transportation had a license for the Strada data but they no longer have a license for the data so it is no longer available.

Ms. Rosett said that Mr. Thompson's appointment and Mr. Aley and Mr. Grotheer's reappointments to the Bike/Walk Commission were approved by the Common Council.

Ms. Rosett said there are a number of projects on Glover Avenue and a section on the road has been repaved, and on the northbound lane there are bike lanes and on the southbound lane there are sharrows. In addition to that, there is a State project to widen the bridge over the Norwalk River from two lanes to three lanes but she does not know what sidewalk or bicycle treatment will be done but she will try

contacting them for further information. She also said at the section north of the recently repaved portion of the road is the part that goes by the Merritt 7 railroad station and the State has a project to move the station further north and repave the road both in front of the present station and in front of the new station, and there are also three building apartment complex being built and have had a verbal commitment to make that a complete street. In addition to that, across the street from the apartment complex BLT has purchased most of the land on that side of the street and there is a project called North Seven and she will send the links for both the webpage for the project and the master plan and the project does reference sidewalks and bike lanes where they fit, and are planning to install bike racks which will be covered at the new station when it is moved further north. She said there will be public hearings on the project in fall.

Ms. Rosett said at 50 Washington Street the city has redone the front area and made it into a park and were initially told there would be bike racks installed but there are not. She said that she had read on Nancy on Norwalk that the Chair of the Planning Commission is upset because that was part of the vision. In addition to that, in the park across the street the city has gotten a grant and should have bike rack installed.

Ms. Rosett said that she has distributed the link to the guide for the complete streets in Bridgeport that we can use the information and make use of in Norwalk.

Ms. Hebert provided a status update for Vision Zero and complete streets in Norwalk and said we are in the process of putting together an RFQ for the Transportation Master Plan so that a consultant can help to develop a scope for the citywide Transportation Master Plan. She said once a consultant is selected the Bike/Walk Commission will have representation and Vision Zero should be part of the thought process behind the overall Transportation Master Plan and will also include the complete streets. She said they are in the process of putting a policy together for complete streets and some of the design standards related to DPW include language to require where possible to have complete street installations. The LOCIP grants that we have obtained for West Washington Street and the East Wall Street areas are complete street type of installation's and the grant for West Washington Street was \$2 million dollars and the East Wall Street are was \$1.6 million dollars.

4. STANDING REPORTS

i. Transportation planner

Mr. Pacelli reported and said there was a meeting held to discuss the bike plan and there are four streets we are on track for installing sharrows this year and Cove Avenue, Fifth Street and First Street are targeted to be paved by the end of this year, and are hoping to get the symbols installed on the roadways once they are paved. He said they are also looking at Hanford Place which is not on the paving schedule this year but would like to install sharrows to be able to make the connection from Water Street and Monroe Street.

Mr. Pacelli said there are no new updates regarding the connectivity grant and they are still working with the State. He said the drafter is currently working on the draft plans for the Safe Routes to School Project and will be finalized soon. He said a public hearing will be scheduled for the redesign work for the intersection of Flax Hill Road and Highland Avenue once they can have a public meeting held in person. Ms. Rosett asked once the public meeting is held if that is the final step. Mr. Pacelli said the grant funds are available and will just need to finalize the

design but there has been some pushback from the residents in the area. Ms. Bisceglie asked if the redesign of the intersection on Fitch will be part of the plan. Mr. Pacelli said that is a separate project and is not one of the projects that staff is currently working on. Ms. Bisceglie said they had discussed the intersection almost two years ago. Mr. Aley said he will discuss it at the subcommittee meeting. Mr. Yeosock said they are looking at a possible three way stop or a signal at that location but will have to work with the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association as well.

Mr. Aley asked if any progress has been on Seaview Avenue. Mr. Pacelli said he will report back at the next meeting after he speaks with DPW staff.

a. Bike Plan

This was discussed under the Transportation Planner's report.

b. Events

Ms. McCabe reported and said they have restocked the bike safety brochures that they had purchased from the League of American Bicyclists, and have also purchased 400 give away bags for when there is an event held. She said they have sent in an application to participate in the National Night Out that is currently scheduled for October 6, 2020.

c. Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT)

Mr. Carter reported and said the Missing Link has continued the path through the approval process and are now to the bidding stage and will go through all city and state regulations. He said he anticipates that it will go out to bid shortly and a contract agreement by the fall and construction to begin thereafter. Mr. Yeosock said Mayor Rilling has signed the document and DOT now needs to process the invoice and we should be authorized to bid in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Carter said the WilWalk project is administered through Wilton and faces the same technical legal questions as the Missing Link but it is proceeding and he hopes that it will go out to bid this year.

Mr. Carter said that the Redevelopment Agency has been pushing the project at 40 Cross Street forward and they have met with the new owners and presented their desire to expand the trail sidewalk from 4' to at least 6' and they have been receptive to that.

Mr. Carter said that they had needed to raise \$275,000 to complete the match for the WilWalk project and have raised \$250,000 to date and are working on raising the remaining \$25,000.

Mr. Carter said the enhanced wayfinding has not advanced and asked Mr. Yeosock for an update. Mr. Yeosock said the signs have been ordered but have not come in yet.

Ms. Bisceglie thanked Mr. Carter for all of the work that he has been doing and said that she is happy to help however she can.

d. Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Rosett said that they are working to have someone on the committee co-chair. The main initiative that they are currently working on is that Doug Hempstead is drafting a survey to send out asking about peoples walking habits to get a sense of where people's priorities are. The other major initiative has been around improving sidewalks near the school.

Ms. Hebert left the meeting at 6:45PM

e. Safety and Education

Ms. Bisceglie reported and said that she would like to reach out to Mr. Hempstead to partner up with the Pedestrian Committee for bike education.

Ms. Bisceglie said that she was unsuccessful with reaching out to Parks and Recreation and she had offered her expertise but they are not doing any classes but offered if she had any videos they would upload them to the website, and she will reach out to League of Bicycles to see if they have any videos on bike safety.

f. Social Media

There was no discussion.

g. Strategic Plan

There was no discussion.

h. Walking Update

There was no update.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Safety Card

Ms. Rosett said there was some discussion last month regarding a two-sided safety card and she has since had an email conversation with a printer that does work for the city. She presented the card and said she would like to committee to decide if it is something they would like to move forward with and if so how it will be distributed. It was the consensus of the committee that they should move forward with the cards and Mr. Aley suggested that the information regarding wearing ear buds be more direct. Mr. Thompson and Ms. Bisceglie said that they will work together on a new photo for the safety cards. Ms. Bisceglie suggested the cards are also done in Spanish and that they be distributed at the food distribution centers. Ms. McCabe also suggested they be distributed at the Community Health Center. Ms. Rosett said that she will have the suggested changes made and add it to the agenda for approval next month.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Vice Chair Position

Ms. Rosett said that there was a discussion last month regarding appointing a Vice Chair and she has gotten the opinion of the legal department that an ordinance change would not be needed. She said her term ends in June, 2021 and she does not intend on serving another term. It was suggested the candidate be approved by a majority of the Commission.

****MS. MCCABE MOVED TO APPROVE CREATING A VICE CHAIR POSITION TO BE APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION.**

****MR. ALEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Rosett said that if there is anyone interested in the position to contact her. Ms. McCabe nominated Mr. Aley for Vice Chairman.

Mr. Thompson said that he is scheduled to meet with Ms. Lewis to discuss social media.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MCCABE MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MR. THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd