

MEETING NOTICE/AGENDA
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 8, 2021

7:35 PM

REMOTE MEETING

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT MEMORIAL TOWN HALL WILL BE CLOSED AND THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE WILL BE CONDUCTING THE MEETING SOLEY USING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Public Comments on these agenda items will be heard at the opening of this committee

You can speak to any committee agenda item by joining the meeting, or send your comment/s in to LCpublicinput@hamden.com by 3:00 PM of this agenda date

For remote attendance:

To participate in public input live you must:

- 1. Have your name displayed on your screen**
- 2. Raise your hand to speak when the public input session is opened
(You will be called upon in the order that your hand is raised)**

The Chair will call your name and unmute you. You have 3 minutes to speak and will be warned when you have 30 seconds remaining and muted at the completion of 3 minutes

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/96032210583>

Password: Dragons

Webinar ID: 960-3221-0583

If you experience any issue with the link above go to Zoom.com and click "join a meeting" and put in the following meeting ID and password - Meeting ID: 960-3221-0583 Password: Dragons

OR

Join by telephone. (For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location)

US: [+1 646 558 8656 \(New York\)](tel:+16465588656): [+1 312 626 6799 \(Chicago\)](tel:+13126266799): [+1 301 715 8592 \(Washington DC\)](tel:+13017158592)
[+1 669 900 9128 \(San Jose\)](tel:+16699009128): [+1 253 215 8782 \(Tacoma\)](tel:+12532158782): [+1 346 248 7799 \(Houston\)](tel:+13462487799)

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/aH73lUF9D>

For additional sign-in support for any device or browser you can use the following link:

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting?mobile_site=true

Note: Any member of the public may request, in writing, a physical location and “any electronic equipment necessary” to attend the meeting in real time. Said request shall be made to KRenta@Hamden.com not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting. Said individual shall have the “same opportunities to provide comment or otherwise participate” in the meeting as would be afforded if the meeting was held in person with the following exception: Under law, the Legislative Council is not required to adjourn or postpone a meeting if such person loses the ability to participate because of an interruption, failure or degradation of such person’s connection to the meeting by electronic equipment. Since the meeting is remote, participation by a quorum of members of any Committee of the Legislative Council is expressly prohibited and will not be present at the physical location.

AGENDA:

Public Input:

1. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a gift of a bench on the Farmington Canal Greenway in memory of Joseph Lee

ZOOM sign in info:

1. Join using Zoom from your computer, tablet or smartphone by using the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96032210583> Password: Dragons

2. If you already have the Zoom App or go to the Zoom.com website, simply select “join a meeting” and complete the following: Webinar ID: 960-3221-0583 Password: Dragons

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,96032210583# or +13126266799,96032210583#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/aH73IU9D>



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, Connecticut 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7100
Fax: (203) 287-7101

Curt Balzano Leng
Mayor

August 30, 2021

Legislative Council
Hamden Government Center
Hamden, CT 06518

Re: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE A GIFT OF A BENCH ON THE FARMINGTON CANAL GREENWAY (IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH LEE)

Honorable Members:

Please find a Resolution enclosed authorizing the Town of Hamden to accept a donated bench on the Farmington Canal Greenway. This bench is donated by the Hamden Land Conservation Trust (HLCT) in loving memory of Joseph Lee. Mr. Lee served the HLCT as an attorney and a valued member and adviser for over twenty years. The bench will be installed at the Joe Lee Urban Oasis, located along the Farmington Canal Greenway, directly behind Route 10 at 3810 Whitney Avenue.

The Farmington Canal Commission approved this request at their meeting on April 6, 2021. For more information, please see attached correspondence from Town Attorney Sue Gruen and the minutes from the Farmington Canal Commission.

By copy of this letter, Chief of Staff Adam Sendroff is asked to attend your meeting to respond to any questions you may have.

Your approval of this Resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,
Sincerely,



Curt Balzano Leng, Mayor

CBL/rr

Enclosures

cc: Town Attorney Sue Gruen, Town Planner Eric Johnson, FD Scott Jackson, DFD Rick Galarza, COS Adam Sendroff, Mayor's Office File

Memo

To: Mayor Curt Leng
From: Sue Gruen, Town Attorney 
Date: August 30, 2021
Cc: Erik Johnson, Acting Town Planner
Adam Sendroff, COS
Craig Cesare, Public Works Director
Re: Donation of Bench

Attached please find a resolution authorizing the Town to accept a donation from the Hamden Land Conservation Council of a bench in memory of Joseph Lee.

Please forward this to the Council for approval.

**TOWN OF HAMDEN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GIFT OF A BENCH
ON THE FARMINGTON CANAL GREENWAY
IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH LEE**

Presented by:

WHEREAS, members of the Hamden Land Conservation Council wish to donate and dedicate a bench on the Farmington Canal Greenway in memory Joseph Lee; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Lee, an attorney, was a valued member and advisor to the Hamden Land Conservation Council for over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the bench will sit next to a garden full of pollinator plants dedicated in his honor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with procedures established by the Farmington Canal Commission and the Hamden Department of Public Works and Parks, the Mayor on behalf of the Town of Hamden shall be authorized to accept and dedicate a bench from the Hamden Land Conservation Trust.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bench in memory of Joseph Lee shall be placed at a location next to a garden of pollinator plants directly behind the Route 10 Restaurant at 3810 Whitney Avenue.

Adopted by the Legislative Council at its meeting held on _____ 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Susan Gruen
Town Attorney

_____, President
Legislative Council

APPROVED:

Kim Renta, Clerk
Legislative Council

Curt Balzano Leng
Mayor

Date: _____



TOWN OF HAMDEN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**Hamden Government
Center
2750 Dixwell Ave**

**Curt Balzano Leng
Mayor**

**Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7100
Fax: (203) 287-7101**

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 954 8418 0794
PASSWORD: trail
CALL IN : 1 646-558-8656**

Minutes: The Farmington Canal Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 via Zoom. The following topics were discussed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Maloney, Mr. Horowitz, Ms. Sharma, Mr. Anton, Mr. Reger, Mr. Mallory

Others in Attendance: Board Member and Past President of the Hamden Land Conservation Trust Mr. Sirch, Assistant Town Planner Mr. Davis, Commission Clerk Ms. Tobin

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of March 2, 2021

Minutes were corrected to fix several typos. **Mr. Reger made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2021 as corrected. Ms. Sharma seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Request of the Hamden Land Conservation Trust to install a memorial bench for Attorney Joe Lee at the Existing Pollinator Garden

2.

Mr. Sirch, Board Member and Past President of the Hamden Land Conservation Trust addressed the Commission, and said the HLCT owns four acres behind the Route 10 Restaurant on Whitney Avenue, abutting the trail. They installed a pollinator garden in honor of Attorney Joe Lee, father of Assistant Town Attorney Tim Lee. Mr. Davis feels this is a great idea and assumes that the usual design standards will be followed. Mr. Sirch agreed and said they will place a plaque in Attorney's Lee's memory on or below the bench. Mr. Davis explained that if the Commission approves the installation of the bench, the proposal will go to the Legislative Council for approval of the donation. Mr. Sirch can keep in touch with Mr. Davis for updates. Mr. Sirch mentioned that they haven't cleaned up the garden yet, but will do that and some additional planting.

Mr. Horowitz asked about a large parcel of land south of the pollinator garden with a house on it set way back, whose owner was talking about donating the land to the Town/Land Trust. Mr. Sirch said that property is now being willed to a private person. Ms. Maloney asked if Land Trust properties ever have trails on them Mr. Sirch said yes and no. The land Trust raised funds to purchase land donated to the Town and Brooksvale Park with trails on it, and on State Street they own the parcel where the eagles are located. Rock Top was the first blue trail in Connecticut on which an apartment complex was proposed. The HLCT purchased 18 acres and put up a sign board with historical information

Mr. Schaefer asked for a motion to support the request of the Hamden Land Conservation Trust to install a bench in memory of Attorney Joe Lee at the pollinator garden. Ms. Maloney so moved. Ms. Maloney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Report from Matt Davis

Mr. Davis reported that the proposed Mayor's 2021-2022 budget is on the Town's website. Legislative Council meetings regarding the budget are also listed on the website. In the current operating budget Mr. Davis was able to find \$2,500 for trail maintenance. He was told that a few years ago the Town took proceeds from a bond and have been drawing it down for trail maintenance. He spoke to Acting Planner Mark Austen, and they know of no other funds budgeted for trail repair. Mr. Schaefer explained that maintenance includes canopy trimming, pothole repair and other minor repairs done by the Public Works Department. Ms. Maloney mentioned that the high bridge on the trail near Todd Street has seen better days. That bridge needs to be on a schedule to be replaced or repaired. She has had multiple complaints about the bridge since people found out she is on the Commission. There have been some repairs on the bridge but other boards are rotting.

Mr. Schaefer mentioned that Capital funds are borrowed money and have to be repaid by the Town. We have to reach out to Council representatives, and others including the Finance Director and try to impress on everyone that if major repairs are not done on a continuing basis, the trail will become unsafe and more costly to maintain in the future.

3.

Mr. Davis mentioned that the Government Center will be opening to the public some time in mid to late April.

There was discussion on the letter that Mr. Schaefer sent to the Mayor and Town staff on the importance of funding repairs to the trail. Ms Maloney edited the letter. At Ms. Maloney's suggestion, Mr. Schaefer asked Commissioners to choose a section of the trail to check for any work that might need to be done.

Ms. Maloney checked Phase I and commented that behind MIKRO roots need to be taken care of. There are several rotting boards on the high bridge. Further north, although, the Town has done a good job removing fallen branches from the trail, they are just pushed to the side and left

there. She asked if we could bring in volunteers to clean that up. Mr. Schaefer said that the work might require equipment, contractors, etc. Ms Maloney said that she is the chairman of a mountain bike group and maintain trails with the permission of DEEP. She said the rest of Phase I was good.

Phase IIA. Mr. Schaefer said that section of the trail is generally in excellent condition, He started at Todd Street and agrees about the roots. There is a yellow bollard missing. At Sherman Avenue on the north side of the bridge, pavement is breaking off on one side and on the south side, roots are coming up. North of the Shepard Avenue Parking lot, at mile 4.75 there are some roots coming through. When he was crossing West Woods Road he met a woman that was cleaning up trash from Cheshire to the mile 5 marker.

Mr. Reger checked Phase IIB. He walked north from Hop Knot/Breuger's and on the left on one of our signs, water got under the lamination and the sign is no longer readable. About 200 yards south of Hamden Hills Drive on the east side, some work is needed on the bench Mr. Schaefer said his son did that as an Eagle Scout project 30 years ago and he has made repairs to it in the past. Mr. Reger said the soil has eroded away from the cement. Mr. Reger noticed from Hop/Knot/Breuger's south to Connolly Parkway after the hill near mile marker 6.5 there are some good sized cracks. There is fencing down near the Parkway. At the 7 mile marker on the west side, there is some erosion. Some small cones have been placed in the area. There is debris along the side including a mattress and a tent. Behind Stop and Shop there is some erosion. Mr. Horowitz asked Mr. Davis to let Public Works know especially regarding the lack of fence near the drop off. Photos would have more impact.. Mr. Schaefer suggested Commissioners send their reports and photos to Mr. Davis for forwarding to Public Works.

While examining Phase II, Mr. Horowitz noticed that it is in generally good shape. He mentioned there is some fencing down and that the pavement below Treadwell Street is terrible and there is lots of trash to the east of the trail and down the hill. He is not sure who owns that property.

Mr. Schaefer said in the past volunteer cleanups were really helpful. He noted that we were focusing on the problems but the trail is generally in good shape. Mr. Davis will contact Mr. Cesare. There was discussion on a tour of the trail on a golf cart like was done several years ago. He will contact Ms. Smith about setting that up. Ms. Maloney mentioned that she sent an email to the Town Gardner but has not had a response to date. Mr. Schaefer asked if anyone had any further comments on the four phases of the trail, and there were none.

3. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street)
4. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive)
5. Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway)
6. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line)

7. Old Business

Mr. Anton mentioned that Xander is still working on the kiosk. He has marked an area 6' off of the trail with chalk. Mr. Horowitz gave him a \$300 check from the Farmington Canal Rails to

Trails Association and will give him another check when he finishes his project. It will be located on Hamden Park Drive where the trail crosses.

Mr. Anton mentioned that he had sent Commissioners an email with the photo of the proposed sign with history of the train station. He had members of the Historical Society review the information and add what they thought appropriate. The cost of the cast aluminum sign, 2' by 3' would be around \$4,500. A 16" by 24" would probably be more around our price. Mr. Schaefer has a couple of editorial suggestions he will send to Mr. Anton. Mr. Anton mentioned that there are very few interesting facts available on the lock keeper's house. In response to a question from Ms. Maloney regarding funding for the sign, Mr. Horowitz suggested a formal proposal be presented to the Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association.

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Schaefer asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Reger so moved. Ms. Maloney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission