



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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https://zoom.us/rec/share/Nznuym_LuolhFjRQvMRWHPwUqVk4BEnytpMCd-JWjAPXC5sld0bJRBgkHjfpb8Gi.24pqsB9n-RcbXd9Q?startTime=1622589613000

****If prompted for a password, enter: trail**

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above*<https://zoom.us/j/95484180794?pwd=cDY2UjBCQUdIWDF2SIVwd0hqaUtPdZ09>**

**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, June 1, 2021 via Zoom. The following topics were discussed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Mallory, Mr. Horowitz, Mr. Schaefer, Mr. Anton, Mr. Reger, Mr. Radcliffe

Commissioners excused: Ms. Sharma, Ms. Maloney

1. Call to Order

Mr. Schaefer called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Introduction of guest re Weneedhelp_5KRun – Saturday, June 19, 2021

Mena, representing the Virgin Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church in Hamden, addressed the Commission. They are planning a 5k run/walk on the Farmington Canal Trail on Saturday, June 19, 2021 and he is here to answer any questions of the Commission. Mena said this is the third year of their run/walk, which they could not do last year because of Covid. It is a fund raiser for the Church. In 2019, 50 people participated. They plan to start at 9:00 a.m. at Home Depot and head North 1.55 miles and return for a total of 3.10 miles or 5K. Commissioners reminded Mena that the trail can't be blocked for other users. Mena agreed and is working with the Mayor's Office on other details. Commissioners wished the Church a successful event.

Mr. Schaefer acknowledged the presence of Nora Grace-Flood, a reporter for the New Haven Independent and thanked her for her interest in the Trail. She wants to see the recording once it is filed. Ms. Tobin will send her the minutes with instructions for viewing the recording.

2. Review Minutes of May 4, 2021

Correct meeting date on page one. Mr. Reger made a motion to approve the minutes of May 4th as corrected. Mr. Mallory seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Report from Matt Davis

Mr. Davis had nothing to report on the budget and said staffing remains the same in the Planning & Zoning Office. He has heard nothing from the Department of Public Works. Mr. Davis reported that there is some attempt to address the capital budget, but nothing definite to date. He said Mark Austen, the Town Engineer is a good person to speak to regarding what repairs might be necessary on the Trail. Ms. Schaefer said he spoke to Mr. Austen after the last Commission meeting, but he had no information at the time.

Mr. Radcliffe mentioned last month that there would probably be funds in the capital budget from the Covid relief bill. Mr. Horowitz asked if we should prioritize what we feel would be our top three, five or ten recommendations for trail repairs and maintenance. Mr. Schaefer spoke with Public Works Director Craig Cesare. Mr. Radcliffe asked what would be the timing of that request. Mr. Schaefer said that the last time he spoke to a council person he was told they had not addressed the capital budget yet. They are near the final operating budget discussions. If we have priorities and can get information on costs, that would be good information to have. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that our representatives in congress have funds that they can allocate, which is a program recently reinstated by Congress. Disclosures are required and the funds must be used for public purposes. The House Appropriations Commission is chaired by Rosa DeLauro. Mr. Schaefer saw the wish list and the Trail is not on it.

Mr. Radcliffe agrees and said the information should be gathered before this time next year. Mr. Horowitz said the most urgent to him is the fence missing behind the CVS Pharmacy. That might be a maintenance budget item. Mr. Schaefer mentioned the maintenance budget is \$2,500. He reminded Commissioners that if anyone finds anything that needs attention along the trail, they should email the information with photos if possible, to Mr. Davis, who will forward the information on to Mr. Cesare. A question came up regarding which CVS store is being referred to, the one at Putnam Avenue, or the one at Connolly Parkway. Mr. Horowitz was speaking of the one at Connolly Parkway.

Mr. Schaefer said he rode the trail last Wednesday, there were some small bumps, and a serious problem between the former Breuger's location and the Parkway that should be taken care of. The graffiti is only on the traffic signs and on the side of the new kiosk. There was discussion on the need to put a protective clear coat on the kiosk to make it more graffiti proof. Mr. Anton said he will try to sand it off. The wood is actually supposed to remain unfinished for a year to the wood can dry out.

There was mention of graffiti on the main trail at Sleeping Giant, on rocks, ledges, etc. Mr. Schaefer mentioned that Mr. Anton does a great job painting over graffiti on the trail as he spots it.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

a. Discussion on Trail Crossing Safety

The subject of safety at some of the trail intersections with roadways was discussed. Incidents are reported by address, but the Trail doesn't have addresses. Mr. Schaefer asked Mr. Davis to reach out to the Police Department for information. The Hamden Patch recently reported an accident involving a trail user at the River Road intersection. Mr. Radcliffe said he has witnessed three events at northern trail crossings. He said we should think of a low cost remedy, such as trimming trees and shrubs, painting signs at street level, signs in middle of roadways. Mr. Schaefer remembers Aaron Good reporting on funding New Haven received for safety purposes, some of which was to be shared with Hamden.

Mr. Davis does not have information on those funds, but said the Town Engineer has identified a small amount available for safety issues along the trail/crossings. Mr. Horowitz mentioned in New Haven they have placed humps/bumps, etc. Mr. Schaefer said if you are riding a bike on the trail, the sight lines are clear at River Road. Mr. Radcliffe said it looks different from an automobile driver's perspective.

Mr. Mallory noticed that in Vermont their traffic department puts a caution sign in the middle of the road on a cement base. It gives the driver an idea of what's ahead and they are reflective, which is good in the early morning and evening. Mr. Reger mentioned that there are yield signs at Shepard Avenue and the four northern crossings have yield signs. Mr. Schaefer said when he road the trail last Wednesday, cars stopped for him at the intersections.

Mr. Schaefer asked Mr. Radcliffe to draft something for the Traffic Commission regarding our concerns where trail users cross public roads while using the trail. The letter should also go to the Mayor's Office and the Legislative Council and others.

b. Discussion on Revised Mission Statement

Mr. Mallory said he, Mr. Radcliffe and Ms. Maloney met a couple of weeks ago to look at the original mission statement. The Commissioners received an email regarding a proposed new mission statement and recommendations on ways to achieve the mission. There was lengthy discussion and some suggested changes to the proposal. Mr. Schaefer said he feels it is important to make it clear that we are an advisory commission and advocates of the trail. We cannot incur costs. The old ordinance was repealed and substituted in May of 2000.

Commissioners should strike out items that don't apply and narrow down the items to more general ones. An example is compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. That is not the responsibility of the Commission. Neither is establishing a yearly budget.

c. Plans for future of Trail

There was brief discussion on the infrastructure planning and goals of the trail and our support thereof as presented by Mr. Radcliffe at last month's meeting. Mr. Schaefer suggested the use of a white board at our next meeting if we can hold our July 21st meeting at the Brooksvale Park Veterans Building. This would be our annual picnic meeting. Mr. Radcliffe wondered about a brief survey via Facebook, the Sleeping Giant Park Association and the Friends of Brooksvale. What do people like about the Trail. How could we make it better. We could get some good feedback and reinforce our priorities. We could also engage elected officials etc. We could have a 30-45 day turnaround. Mr. Horowitz mentioned when he tried to do that for the State near MiKro. Mr. Anton said he would approach trail users on the trail. Mr. Horowitz said that would be good for walkers but not bikers. Trail users could also be approached in the parking lots. Mr. Radcliffe will draft questions for review by other Commissioners.

6. Phase I Update (Mt. Sanford Road to Todd Street)

no comments

7. Phase IIA Update (Todd Street to Hamden Hills Drive)

no comments

8. Phase IIB Update (Hamden Hills Drive to Connolly Parkway)

no comments

9. Phase III Update (Connolly Parkway to New Haven Line)

no comments

Mr. Schaefer said he found it interesting that someone cleaned out behind Home Depot, but there was trash behind Burger King. The Stop & Shop trash has been cleaned up but sections of the fence are down. He mentioned the fence behind Superior Stone.

Mr. Davis will research the broken fence.

Mr. Horowitz mentioned there will be a Zoom meeting on June 27th regarding the extension of the Plainville trail. If anyone is interested, call him for access information.

Mr. Anton is still working on the sign. He has identified a source for a wooden square post, but it is 6' high. He has incorporated the verbiage as suggested and is looking for quotes.

Mr. Schaefer mentioned the pollinator garden near the Route 10 Diner is well done.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Schaefer asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mallory so moved Mr. Horowitz seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Clerk of the Commission