



Thursday January 20, 2022

(Via WebEx)

Recorded Webinar @ <https://fairfieldct.org/meetingrecordings>

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chairwoman Sarah Roy

**Committee Members Present:** Mike Allen, Scott Craighead, Steve Gniadek, Bruce Prangley, Nate Rex, Sarah Roy, and Karen Secrist.

**Committee Members Not Present:** Tom Keane and Richard Soldano.

**Others Present:** Jonathan Goodison, Coordinator of Middle School Special Education and Wellness Committee Chairman, Fairfield Public Schools; Mary Hogue, member of the Fairfield Forestry Committee and Sustainable Fairfield Task Force; Bill Hurley, Fairfield Town Engineer; and Megha Jain, Fairfield Town Engineer.

Mary updated the committee on the Earth Day event in conjunction with the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day which will be held 4/30 10am-2pm and the Green World Wheels Expo that is still being planned and Sustainable Fairfield hopes Bike-Ped will continue to participate this alternative transportation expo.

Motion made by Karen Secrist to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2021, meeting which was approved by five out of the six committee members present (at the time of the vote) voting in the affirmative with one abstention.

**1. New Member Introductions & Icebreaker.**

- a. Sarah Roy started the meeting with an icebreaker and recognized Bruce Prangley for his service as he departs the committee.
- b. Sarah introduced Jonathan Goodison, who described his role with the Wellness Committee and interest in partnering with the Bike/Ped Committee.
- c. Karen reviewed her experience in another community and with Bike/Ped Committee in collaborating with local schools to promote bike and walking safety.

## **2. Town of Fairfield Updates**

- a. Police Department Update – Tabled to next committee meeting.
- b. Health Department Update – Tabled to next committee meeting.
- c. Town Engineering Update.
  - i. Bill Hurley provided an update on the Pequot Avenue work and Road Safety Audit for Stratfield Road.
  - ii. Megha Jain introduced herself and discussed her experience on the Road Safety Audit for Stratfield Road.
  - iii. Bill updated the committee on a meeting with the State’s Traffic Engineering Division to discuss/review:
    1. Signal and crosswalk improvements under consideration at the intersection of Tunxis Hill Road and Route 58/Knapps Highway near McKinley Elementary School;
    2. Upgraded handicap ramps and potential pedestrian signal improvements on Tahmore Drive; and
    3. The crosswalk improvements for the Northbound on-ramp for 1-95 off Mill Plain Road.
- d. Fairfield Forestry Committee & Sustainable Fairfield Task Force.
  - i. Mary Hogue reviewed Sustainable Fairfield’s project work in 2021 and objectives for 2022, including the Climate Leader designation. Mary also highlighted the task force’s achievement of the silver level certification for Sustainable CT and the Sustainable CT’s matching grant program.
  - ii. Mary reviewed the 2021 accomplishments of Forestry Committee, including the planting of four hundred trees, and objectives for 2022, including help from the Bike/Ped Committee on issues with tree canopies, locations for pollinator gardens and the aim of ensuring all Fairfield residents are within a ten-minute walk to a green space.
  - iii. Megha discussed her past work on rain gardens and their potential application to the Town of Fairfield.

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## **3. Committee Updates/New Business –**

- a. Charter/Ordinance Updates – Sarah indicated that the Charter Revision Committee put forth a work plan that included a reference to the Bike/Ped Committee and how to strengthen the Complete Streets Policy.
- b. Chair Updates:
  - i. Sarah indicated that the Bike/Ped Committee received a letter from Jocelyn Shaw, a

- Fairfield resident, with a check for \$100 in memory of Charlie Proctor.
- ii. Sarah updated the committee on her separate outreaches to (1) the new chair of the Norwalk Bike and Ped Committee to exchange ideas and (2) Matt Conway of Rise Up/CT Murals on the organizations' work in the Hartford area and future work planned for Fairfield.
  - iii. Megha discussed her work in Bridgeport on experimenting with painted bump outs to slow traffic speeds.
  - iv. Sarah reminded the committee members on the Google document capturing feedback from the "Where it is scary?" question and requested feedback. Sarah also mentioned that she has created a form to put on the Bike/Ped Committee social media platforms to capture further feedback as to where Fairfield residents have concerns.
- c. 2022 Goals.
- i. Sarah began conversation on the committees work around events, infrastructure, education (internal and external), and coalitions/relationship building.
  - ii. Events:
    1. Mike Allen updated the committee on his work with the Boy Scouts around a bike rodeo and next steps.
    2. Karen discussed the committee's history with walking/biking events in coordination with Fairfield Museum.
    3. Mary updated the committee on the Earth Day event in conjunction with the
    4. YMCA's Healthy Kids Day which will be held 4/30 10am-2pm and the Green World Wheels Expo that is still being planned and Sustainable Fairfield hopes Bike-Ped will continue to participate this alternative transportation expo.
    5. Scott Craighead raised an idea of an event that promotes the current bike routes.
    6. Sarah discussed planning for the next World Day of Remembrance.
    7. Mary discussed plans on a walking tour of six locations around Fairfield with signs highlighting trees in the downtown area.
  - iii. Infrastructure:
    1. Nate Rex updated the committee on his and Karen's work to establish the fourth bike route and plan to complete necessary forms, in advance of the next committee meeting, to be submitted to the Police Commission for review.
    2. Sarah highlighted the committee's interest in the sidewalk improvements on Unquowa Road near CT Audubon BirdCraft.
    3. Further discussion on work related to "Share the Road" signage was tabled for a future Bike/Ped Committee meeting.
  - iv. Education:
    1. Steve Gniadek and other Committee members discussed methods to educate the residents on rules around walking and biking on roadways.
  - v. Coalitions/Relationship Building: Conversation tabled for a subsequent meeting.

#### **4. Other Business or Communications.**

- a. In absence of an appointment for the role of secretary, Karen will take the minutes for the February committee meeting.

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 24, 2022.

Motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. made by Nate. The motion was approved unanimously.