



Thursday February 24, 2022

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairwoman Sarah Roy

Committee Members Present: Mike Allen, Scott Craighead, Steve Gniadek, Nate Rex, Sarah Roy, Tom Keane

Committee Members Not Present: Richard Soldano and Karen Secrist

Others Present: Mark Barnhart, Fairfield Director of Communication & Economic Development; Bill Hurley, Fairfield Town Engineer; and Santina Jaronko, Fairfield Health Department.

Motion made by Mike Allen to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2022, seconded by Nate Rex. A motion was made to amend the minutes with the proposed revisions presented by Mary Hogue, motion made by Mike Allen and seconded by Steve Gniadek, the motion was approved.

I. Introductions and Icebreaker

- a. Sarah Roy started the meeting with introductions and an ice breaker question.

II. Special Guest: Mark Barnhart, director, Town of Fairfield Community and Economic Development Director

- a. Sarah introduced Mark Barnhart, Fairfield Director of Communication & Economic Development
- b. Mark discussed his role and responsibilities and how the FBPC could support his department:
 - 1.) May - National Bike Awareness month - supporting and encouraging bike safety
 - 2.) Supporting CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding for projects specifically for sidewalk improvements
 - 3.) Connectivity - Trying out a scooter program, this would provide additional options for people to get around. These scooters are an effective and sustainable option, battery operated and it is possible to implement speed limit restrictions.

III. Town of Fairfield Updates

- a. Police Department Update: Sarah reported that Evan Kaesman, FPD liaison to the FBPC, did not have any updates to submit prior to the meeting. Sarah asked Mike Allen to provide an update regarding the Bike Rodeo being planned by the Fairfield Police Department and the local Boy Scouts. A confirmed date for the event is still forthcoming as of this meeting. In the past it was organized and held at Jennings Beach parking lot. Santina offered for the Health Department to provide some giveaway items for the event, such as the pedestrian light-up wristbands they purchased with grant funds last year.
- b. Health Department Update: Santina talked about the Health Department grant, this is the third and final year of the grant. Currently have \$15,392 left in the budget which must be used by September 30, 2022. \$1600 of that will be used to complete the fencing at the Lincoln park project leaving \$13,695. Follow up discussion on where these funds should be used, possibly a sidewalk in front of the Birdcraft Museum, or possibly the Pequot Avenue project. Santina also mentioned the red bikes left over from the Bike Share and what will happen to them, depending upon the potential uses that the State Health Department would approve of because they were paid for using their funding. It is possible the bikes will be utilized by town employees to travel between municipal buildings; they are also exploring the possibility of Fairfield University or Sacred Heart University using the bikes in some way. Regardless, the bikes will not be given away by the Town.
- c. Post Road/Unquowa Road/Old Post Road Intersection Update and Request: Sarah introduced Alyssa Israel, who asked that the FBPC support and carry on the process of improving the intersection at Post road, Unquowa road, and Old Post Road by the Community Theater and the downtown Library. Alyssa's survey request to the Police Commission was reviewed at the February 2022 meeting and the commission members agreed that that intersection is dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike and they authorized Bill Hurley to pursue safety improvements with the State Department of Transportation. Chief Bob Kalamaras also offered to write a letter of support to DOT in support of improving the safety of the intersection.

Motion was made to support Alyssa's proposal by Steve Gniadek and seconded by Nate Rex. Motion approved by a vote of 5 to 1. Mike Allen voted against the motion.

- d. Town Engineering Update: Fairfield Town Engineer Bill Hurley gave a brief update that he is looking for grants to work on sidewalk improvements. Bill also said that the Town was in the process of completing the Road Safety Audit for Stratfield Road/Route 59 and that it should be available in the near future.
- e. Forestry & Fairfield Sustainable Task Force: - Mary Hogue was not present and did not submit an update via email prior to the meeting.

Committee Updates/New Business

- a. Committee Financials Update: Financial Reporter Steve Gniadek shared that there were two transactions made since last reporting on financials, one to cover costs of the pamphlets for the World Remembrance Day and the committee received a \$100 donation. He mentioned the committee has a very small account and we may want to consider encouraging some fundraising to support our efforts.

- b. Chair Updates: Sarah provided a brief report on her chair activity from the previous month, including sitting in on various meetings and webinars, including a CT DOT workshop about Federal Infrastructure funding, Bike Walk CT meetings, meeting with Scott Jarzombek, director of the Fairfield Public Library, meeting with Meghan Sloan of CT MetroCOG. Sarah announced that Emmeline Harrigan, assistant director of Planning for the Town of Fairfield, will be the guest speaker for the March meeting. Scott suggested asking representatives from other bike and pedestrian organizations from around the state to be future guest speakers. Sarah reported that over 50 people has responded to the committee's "Where is it scary?" online survey so far. Sarah discussed that the committee will be forming Working Groups to set goals and accomplish work in between meetings. The working groups will be organized after each committee member submits their working group preference via survey.
- c. Steve presented the committee with a sample of crosswalk material that has been used at some crosswalks in Redding, CT, where he works. The material is made by 3M and costs about \$350 for 30 yards/90 feet. It is a more durable, long lasting, and visible material than paint. Steve asked Bill to look into trying this material on crosswalks in Fairfield.
- d. Greenfield Hill Bike Route - Updates tabled until March 2022 meeting because FBPC member Karen Secrist could not attend tonight and she has been working on the Bike Route application for the Police Commission.
- e. Boy Scout Bike Rodeo Update - This update was provided during the Police Department Update. See above.
- f. 2022 Goals - This discussion was tabled in lieu of the committee forming working groups.

Other Business or Communications

- a. Steve Gniadek mentioned that he thought we should add safety to our committee name. The committee discussed the positives and negatives of including the word "safety" in the name. Nate also mentioned that the committee had invested in a logo a few years back that would have to be revised if the name were to change. The committee discussed the option of creating a mission/vision statement that would emphasize safety and include the word safety. Steve will contact Jennifer Carpenter to discuss options around this idea.

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 17, 2022.

Motion to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. made by Steve Gniadek seconded by Scott Craighead. The motion was approved unanimously.

Submitted by Karen Secrist.