



**Monthly Meeting**

**6:00 PM, Thursday, April 21, 2022**

**in the 1st Floor Conference Room, Independence Hall,**

**725 Post Road, Fairfield, CT 06825**

**and via Conference Call Bridge.**

Recorded Webinar @ <https://fairfieldct.org/meetingrecordings> and  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mYUyWh7lc>

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present in person:** Mike Allen, Scott Craighead, Steve Gniadek, Sarah Roy, Mary Tomey-Streeto.

**Committee Members not Present:** Tom Keane, Nate Rex.

**Others Present in person:** Bill Hurley, Fairfield Town Engineer; Megha Jain, Fairfield Town Engineer; Mark Barnhart, Fairfield Director of Community & Economic Development.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Committee Members**

- a. Sarah started the in-person meeting at 6:01.

**2. Minutes**

- a. Motion made by Mike to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting (March 17, 2022), Scott seconded, and they were approved with Steve abstaining having not attended the March meeting.
- b. Mary was selected to produce the Minutes at the next meeting (May 19).

**3. Introductions & Icebreaker**

- a. Sarah started the discussion with a group icebreaker, asking about members' first paid job.

**4. Town of Fairfield Updates**

**a. Bird Scooter Update (Mark Barnhart)**

- i. Board of Selectman earlier this week approved a dockless scooter rental program for 50 GPS enabled Bird scooters provided by Bird.

- ii. Train station, parks, universities will have stations to find scooters; they can be left anywhere after usage but a Bird fleet manager will return them nightly to those stations.
- iii. No cost to Fairfield but a portion of each ride will be allocated to the town (\$0.20 per ride). Rides cost \$1 per ride plus \$0.49 per mile, averaging \$6-8/per ride.
- iv. Police Dept. will be the town's point of contact for Bird's fleet manager.
- v. Timing for launching the pilot program is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week or end of May.
- vi. Bridgeport, Ansonia and Naugatuck have engaged Bird with success.
- vii. Sarah had previously provided a personal recommendation to Mark's Community & Economic Development Board in lieu of a Board vote.

**b. Health Department Update (Sarah delivered Santina Jaronko's report in her absence)**

**i. Preventative Health Block Grant**

- 1. Santina's midterm report is due May 1<sup>st</sup>. So far, \$3,400 (fence for Lincoln Park) has been spent which leaves a remaining balance of \$12,899 for sidewalk connectivity for the bird craft area. Her next email is to George K at DPW and Bill Hurley at Engineering about this project.
- 2. All grant funds need to be used by September 30, 2022.
- 3. Bill Hurley discussed how 80% of the location of the sidewalk is fine, the other 20% is sloped and potentially problematic to produce the sidewalk. Megha Jain described how there are trees/roots that may be problematic. Thus Engineering Dept. suggested that another area might be a preferable location for the money and asked the Committee to consider another area that would be easier to develop a sidewalk. Bill and Megha described how the funds available would pay for about 200+/- feet of sidewalk development. The committee engaged in a discussion about other locations that might be better suited for the funding than Bird Craft. Mike, Mary, and Steve, are going to contact Engineering about their suggested locations for sidewalk development.
- 4. The State liked the idea of the potential new Greenfield Hill bike route that Nate has designed. Therefore, for Year 4 (October 2022 – September 2023), they have increased our budget by \$7,000 for a new total of \$23,672.

**ii. BikeShare Red Bikes**

- 1. Santina is going to learn if Town departments want any of the bike share bikes but risk management is currently in a transition so program is in a holding pattern at this point. If that's a no, then Santina will reach out to Sacred Heart University and Fairfield University to see if they want the bikes.

iii. **Helmet Safety**

1. At a recent Board of Health meeting, one of the members expressed a need to put out messaging regarding helmet safety. Santina is going to try to push some messaging out throughout this season on their social media platforms. Santina requested that anyone who has any great messages, please let her know or tag the health department on social media so she can share on their platforms.

c. **Town Engineering Update (Bill Hurley/Megha Jain)**

i. **Fairfield Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan**

1. Bill and Megha got together to discuss the status of the Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan prior to this meeting. They are reviewing the Plan and will provide status report at the June 16, 2022 FBPC meeting. Parts of the Plan have been accomplished. They will endeavor to determine priorities to pursue.

ii. **Mill Plain Road Survey**

1. Megha, Sarah, and Steve conducted a walk audit of a section of Mill Plain Road with some local residents back in March. Numerous safety concerns were noted, especially the need for an additional crosswalk. Local residents are in the process of putting together a Police Commission Survey Request petition in support of a new crosswalk.

iii. **Stratfield Road Audit Report**

1. Megha is almost finished with the report for the Stratfield Road Pedestrian audit that was conducted with the State DOT back in January. She will share the report with the committee once it's completed.

iv. **Round Hill Road Sidewalk Development Project**

1. This sidewalk is projected to be designed from Barlow to the I-95/Park & Ride area.
2. 90% buy in from the neighborhood, working on the remaining 10% for their approval. Obtaining neighborhood buy-in is important to this project's success.
3. Town is looking for grant money to pay for it.
4. A neighbor on the corner of Round Hill and Barlow has expressed concern about cars have damaged their property due to the corner being problematic—drivers ignoring stop signs, taking turns at excessive speeds. Megha will look at the corner to assess the neighbor's concerns.

v. **SS4A Grant (Safe Streets & Roads for All)**

1. Megha and Bill are looking into opportunities to apply for SS4A grant funding, which opens up in May 2022. Engineering attended this workshop virtually and guidance from State and regional levels is for a regional approach to seeking these funds, something tied to Bridgeport or a school or university. Working

with Metro COG (Metropolitan Council of Governments) regarding this.

**vi. Bloomberg Philanthropies Grant**

1. They are investigating this.
2. Grant \$ funds children's art signage (painting) to slow traffic with drivers realizing they are entering an area with children.
3. There was a comment that painting something like this might actually distract drivers which would do the opposite, and make things less safe.
4. Megha has heard of challenges to keep the artwork maintained, thus she's not sure this grant has a lot of merit.
5. Sarah mentioned Lots of Fish of New Haven, which has been doing asphalt projects for years, using traffic paint—the same durable paint used to paint double yellow lines on roads. Sarah offered to connect Megha with leaders in New Haven who could talk to her about the durability of these projects.

**5. Committee Updates/New Business**

**a. Vice Chair Nomination and Vote**

- i. Previous Vice Chair (Karen Secrist) stepped down in March 2022.
- ii. Sarah explained that the Vice Chair role primarily involves running the Committee meeting in the Chair's absence.
- iii. Steve offered to assume the role. Mike made the motion to nominate Steve for the Vice Chair. Scott seconded the motion. Steve was elected unanimously as Vice Chair.

**b. Greenfield Hill Bike Route and Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan**

- i. Bike Route
  1. Discussion tabled until the Police Commission's May 11 or June 8 meeting in Nate's absence.
  2. Bill noted that based on previously approved bike routes by the Police Commission, they are more easily approved when there is neighborhood buy-in for the signage.
- ii. Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan
  1. Bill and Megha felt that it would be best for Engineering to complete their report about the status of Master Plan projects and to then share findings and Nate, Scott and Sarah, as the Infrastructure and Design working group, who will then review.
  2. Sarah is pushing this as a priority because one of the Committee's "charges" is to fulfill the recommendations of the Master Plan.

**c. Boy Scout Bike Rodeo Update**

- i. Mike reported that the event will take place at Jennings Beach parking lot on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 AM to noon. Event will be led by the Fairfield Police Athletic League and supported by area Cub Scout packs.
- ii. Free helmets will be provided by Yale New Haven Injury Prevention Program.

- iii. The Health department will support the program with promotional items such as reflectors and pedestrian wrist bands.
- iv. Easton Cycle Works (local bike repair business) and the Sound Cyclist Bicycle Club will be present.
- v. The Fairfield Public Library will be involved.
- vi. A press release was to be sent 4/22/22, and a blurb will be put on the Committee's facebook page.
- vii. FBPC will have a table and a banner and all Committee members are encouraged to attend and help at the event. FBPC will have brochures and a survey for attendees to fill out about their biking experiences and preferences in town. Committee will also have bike route map hangers to give away to attendees.

**d. Relationships & Policy Working Group Update**

- i. This group consisting of Mary, Tom and Sarah had its first meeting 3 weeks ago.
- ii. The group's goal is to get more community and organizational involvement in our Committee's charge.
- iii. Mary will be asking Universities for suggestions regarding how to promote biking and walking to town as opposed to always driving.
- iv. Tom invited the members of the RTM to the Bike Rodeo to increase their awareness of bike safety issues and activities.
- v. This group also discussed inviting the RTM Majority and Minority leaders to future FBPC meetings.
- vi. A Bridgeport road & safety committee advocate/concerned citizen (John DarrochMannix) contacted the committee via email seeking an opportunity to discuss better collaboration between Bridgeport and Fairfield regarding pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. Sarah will meet with him 5/3/22.

**e. Committee Name/Charge Revision Discussion**

- i. Committee/Name/Charge Revision
  - 1. Steve requested that the word "safety" be incorporated into our Committee's name, and/or our charge, as our charge does not include a reference to safety.
  - 2. A change to the committee name and/or charge will need to be approved by the Board of Selectpeople.
  - 3. Steve shared a proposed redesign of the Committee logo that would incorporate the word "safety" into the committee name.
  - 4. Mike asked if adding "safety" to our name change might cause some legal concerns.
  - 5. Sarah read out loud the Committee's charge and the word "safety" is not included.
  - 6. Steve and Sarah will make suggested verbiage to revise the charge and bring it to the Committee at our next meeting. Sarah invited all committee members who are interested to submit suggested charter/name revisions prior to the June 16 meeting.

**f. Chair Updates (Sarah Roy)**

- i. Sarah said that Committee Member Richard Soldano is stepping down. FBPC now has 2 Committee vacancies as we are required to have 9 members.
  1. Steve inquired about the size of our Committee and whether 9 members are required to accomplish our charge and he suggested making the Committee 7 members. Sarah noted that, as written, the FBPC is required to have 9 members. Quorum of 5 is required to vote.
  2. Steve suggested that we promote Committee meetings to encourage more public comment. Sarah noted that she was working on developing a newsletter for the committee on MailChimp.
- ii. Sarah thanked Mary for her PowerPoint presentation that summarized and visualized the responses to the “Where is it scary?” survey.
- iii. Sarah discussed the SS4A program and how there's a good chance that the Town of Fairfield could receive funding from the \$6 billion program because the money is going straight to counties and municipalities and not through CT DOT.
- iv. Sarah met with Hector Irizarry (Police Dept. member who is now Head of Traffic Div.) to review the Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan Enforcement section. Sarah reported that Hector is eager to work with the Committee.
  1. Steve commented that the Police Dept. should be attending our meetings. Sarah noted that they've been having scheduling conflicts and that she would reach out to Hector to discuss it.
- v. Sarah will be speaking (public comments) about the relationship between transportation safety and systemic racism at the RTM meeting on April 25, 2022.
- vi. Meghan Sloan is slated to be guest speaker at the May 19, 2022 FBPC meeting. Meghan is the planning director with the Metropolitan Council of Governments (aka Metro COG).

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. made by Mary. Scott seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting minutes submitted by Scott Craighead.