

Bike & Pedestrian Committee Monthly Meeting Minutes

When: Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 6pm

Where: 1st Floor Conference Room, Independence Hall & Via Conference Call Bridge

Audio recording: [Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 9/21/23 - YouTube](#)

Committee members in attendance

- Mike Allen (MA)
- Dave Dembowski (DD)
- Tim Callahan (TC)
- Steve Gniadek (SG), Chairman
- Tom Keane (TK) - Vice Chairman
- Anya Mezak (AM) - Secretary
- Dave Peck (DP)
- Tony Wellman (TW)

Town Dept Representatives

- Engineering – none
- Health – Santina Jaronko (SJ)
- Police – Franck Deangelis (FD), Hector Irizarry (HI)

Community Representatives

- Mary Hogue (MH) - Sustainable Fairfield and Forestry Committee

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm

Motion to approve minutes from July 20, 2023 - passed unanimously

- SG will update minutes to change Walking month from November to October

Discussion of statement for October Walking Month

- TW will add logo to the Walking Tips list SG created instead of signing just from the Chair. Want to get the tips out ASAP.
- AM to draft something for driver awareness in addition to the tips being submitted
 - Major points to consider: Speeding, Pay attention (distracted driving)
- The information will go out in Brenda's Town of Fairfield Biweekly, "Fairfield Police Department - Connecticut" FB page (17K followers) and Health Department FB page.

School Representative

- Still no candidates.

Safe Streets Ordinance

- Questions/concerns
 - How have other towns/cities in CT - which are the ones that have had it the longest and how is it working / not working for them?
 - How does the state Complete Streets ordinance relate to the town ordinance?
 - Cost - both for the individual projects and for the new coordinator role.
- Norwalk had the mayor supporting their ordinance

- Needs more discussion - wasn't run by legal department.
- Want more clarity about how the position would be filled (existing Fairfield staff, part time, outside etc) and who they would report to.
- Want to see exact cost for part-time vs full-time person.
- The Fairfield & Bike pedestrian committee would become a commission but not everyone on the B & P wants to be a commissioner. Lots of responsibilities added.

Health Department updates (SJ)

- Regarding grant application - did not receive the Preventative Health Block Grant. Was for \$30k/year for 5 years. \$150K total.
- Nothing in the pipeline from the state currently.
- Current grant ends on the 30th, October.

Engineering updates

- South Pine Creek sidewalks are currently in construction after resistance from residents. Almost completed from Post Road to the beach on a heavily traveled road.
- Mill Plain Road Crosswalks @ 1-95. Sidewalks and signage is up. As per email from CTDOT Dated Sept. 14, 2023 the request has been sent to the CTDOT Office Maintenance. It will be installed as soon as their schedule permits.
- Mill Plain Road Audit
 - Mill Plain Sidewalk Improvements have begun
 - ADA compliant ramps scheduled for this Fall
 - Pell Meadow + Mill Plain crosswalks scheduled this Fall
 - [HI] 187 traffic stops this year have been made and have made a tremendous impact. 85% percentile speed is just 1 mile over the 30MPH limit.
 - Audit at Sconset across from Pell Meadow. South of Riverfield school.
- Villa Avenue
 - Field Studies Completed and also reviewed observations with the residents and Bike members resulted over 5mph speed reduction and also positive feedback.
 - Implementation will begin after gas utility is complete
- Redding Road
 - Rumble strips were approved Sep 13th, 2023
- Traffic Calming Draft Update
 - Engineering has recently completed the traffic safety process and Police has updated their website and included the Police FAQ.
 - Engineering is reviewing with the Police and First Selectwoman office (in progress)

In December, want to set goals for Bike & Ped committee in 2024. Will collect ideas from the group and then select about 3 to focus on.

Forestry Committee Update, MHJ

- Forestry committee does an annual recap of what they've accomplished and a "look forward". Ask annually to report at the select people meetings.
- Next Thursday, Sep 28th at 11:30 - Official opening of pocket park. 1720 Post Road (across from Starbucks). This is also a bus stop!

New email to the committee

- TW and SG met with Dave Kelley from town IT.
- TW and SG will have access and will forward as needed.

Respectfully submitted by Anya Mezak, Secretary

MH will provide her update after SJ at the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:26pm