

Bike & Pedestrian Committee Monthly

Meeting Minutes

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

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

Audio recording: [Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 12/21/23 - YouTube](#)

Committee members in attendance

- Mike Allen (MA)
- 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 – Bill Hurley (BH)
- Health – Santina Jaronko (SJ)
- Police – Frank DeAngelis (FD)

Also Present: Bill Gerber, First Selectman
Jeff Randolph, Planning and Zoning Commission
Various members of the general public

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

Motion to approve minutes from October 19, 2023 - passed unanimously

Per Town Clerk, In December Commissions need to elect officers and set meeting schedule.

Election of Officers

- Steve Gniadek nominated and approved as Chair unanimously.
- Tom Keane nominated and approved as Vice Chair unanimously.
- Anya Mezak nominated and approved as Secretary unanimously.

Motion to approve 2024 Meeting Dates & Times - passed unanimously

Vacant Position - Should be chosen during January Board of Selectman meeting from multiple applicants

Thoughts following World Day of Remembrance

- Changes following the pedestrian death on Mill Plain Rd took 3 years to accomplish
- Redding Road improvements have been a lot faster, possibly because it is a local road instead of a state one.
- BH: The state has swung the pendulum towards bike and ped safety. This thought is following a meeting with Bill Gerber and the DOT.

North Benson Road

- Complaint by parent that her child has to cross North Benson to get to Fairfield University and it's not safe. She felt that Fairfield Univ did not adequately respond to her on this situation responded to her request

People for Bikes Donation

- We have \$692 in our funds and discussed donating \$100 to People for Bikes before the end of December. Decision is to pass for now and consider something local. SG asked members to come up with suggestions for discussion at next meeting

Schools Representative on the Committee:

- Perhaps someone from the town PTA or Board of Education?
- SJ will do an intro to Lori Mediate who oversees the Health Education curriculum and may help us find a representative. SG will reach out to her

Safe & Livable Streets Ordinance Discussion

- What is the role of the Bike & Ped Committee in this ordinance? Bill Gerber will be working through those details now that he is elected. The commissioner may be an outside person given the current Engineering team is stretched thin.

Per Bill Gerber, position will be reporting to Bill Hurley and in some cases the police will still be acting as the Traffic Authority. This person will propose street architecture and methods of street calming but everything will have to go through the Traffic Authority. The Traffic Authority also has to abide by the new Ordinance. This person will create a capital plan within our capital plan.

- While we are waiting for the coordinator to begin, continue with the current projects the Bike & Ped Committee has been trying to move forward including a speed hump study.

Bill Hurley:- Grants- If we have suggestions for the master plan and anything that increases our chances for receiving a grant, put those forward

Difference between having this ordinance and the Complete Streets policy is more Town officials involvement and support. For the time being, the role of the Bike & Ped committee has not changed.

Road Diet on Route 1

Jonathan Corillo DOT is the project manager. SG will plan to invite him to one of our meetings. The plan is still open for public comment. There was already a public meeting in 2020 and another coming. Will need to make sure we are aware of when that is so we can participate

Design plans to be completed in October 2024 after which it can go to bid

Bike Routes to Easton

Emailing with Justin Giorlando (PE working for Town of Easton) in Easton about connecting bike routes (via sharrows). SG will invite him to January meeting

Health Department (SJ)

Submitted final report for the grant for sidewalks in South Pine Creek. Put 500ft of sidewalk to make continuous 1.5 miles of sidewalk on South Pine Creek. Spent \$16,359.98 and were under budget by \$312.02 Did not get the grant for next year but in the new year will start looking for new grants for cycling and pedestrians.

Discussion of engineering updates by BH

Jeff Randolph recommended we all review the Draft Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)

Motion to adjourn: 7:03pm