

Bike & Pedestrian Committee Monthly Meeting Minutes Approved Feb 15, 2024

When: Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6pm

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

Audio recording: [Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 1/18/24 - YouTube](#)

Committee members in attendance

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

Town Dept Representatives

- Engineering – Bill Hurley (BH)
- Health – Santina Jaronko (SJ)
- Police – Frank DeAngelis (FD) and Mike Komm (K) (new to traffic unit)
- Schools - VACANT

Community Representatives

- Mary Hogue (MH) - Absent

Public - one member

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

Welcome Sarah Mason

Motion to approve minutes from December 21, 2023 - passed unanimously

Chairman's Report

Emails Received

- CT DOT I95 Mobility Study

- SG: Decided to pass on being involved.
- BH: They're looking at analyzing the whole scope of Fairfield and Bridgeport. They're trying to put all those things together - widen I95 or concentrate on trains etc.
- 2 meetings ago, Georlando from Easton reached out to talk about bike connectivity between Easton and Reading. SG reached out to him with interest. Invited him to attend the meeting. Sent Jan 3 and got no response.

School Participation

- SG sent an email to Lori Mediate (school health director) but didn't receive a response.
- SG emailed the superintendent, Mike Testani, in the past to appoint someone but received no response.
- AM: Will reach out to Meghann McKale to see if she knows someone interested in participating with Bike & Ped.
- SM: Will reach out to Riverside PTA president to find someone in Health & Wellness to come to the Bike & Ped meeting.
- SG: Our school involvement would be education and event related.
 - Which side of the street to work on etc.

Events

- SG: Seems the CT DOT talk was poorly publicized. Should be in the town newsletter.
- TM: Will reach out to Bill Gerber's office to make sure we are invited to similar events in the future.

Website Form

- Town website has a form where people can report road safety issues. Currently goes into an unknown email address / broken link. Question about whether it should be going to the police commission.
- TM will change it to send to our committee email.

Town Department Updates

Health Department

- No updates

Engineering

- BH had a discussion with Bill Gerber. Engineering will provide monthly updates on Right of Way manual to BG for the next 3 months - what they're going to do, try to do and how much it costs
- Church Hill and McKinley - lots of community support for bike lanes and sidewalks.
 - A lot are Fall 2024 and Sprint 2025. Could be postponed due to unpredictable factors.

Police

- Looking at lowering the speed limits but no current updates on that.

Goals for 2024

Requirements from SG

- These are short term goals, and therefore should be achievable in 2024
- Individual Committee member, or members, need to take ownership of goals
- Limit to 4-5

Decisions

- DP: will get Speed Tables approved and accepted into our town policy.
- Do more for the National Bike & Walk months (May & October).
 - AM planning to bring Bike Buses to more schools around town.
 - DD will own creating a plan and making sure more activities happen.
- TK will work on enforcing better cleaning out of the snow around bus stops and fire hydrants. Will bring the initial proposal for the next meeting.
- SM wants to build a more robust social media presence.
 - Santina said the Bike & Ped FB group used to tag the other groups such as the Health Department and they would reshare for us.
- AM to kick off the Safe Routes to School program
- TC to pursue bike lanes on Park Ave through SHU. Will reach out to Gary MacNamara to kick off the conversation.
 - BH says they met with SHU and look at it with a short term goal of shoulders and then protected bike lanes. Suggesting they do entire Jefferson St, including a cost share. Will be having a meeting in the next couple of weeks to look at grants and commitments from the university.
 - TC also suggested talking about a bike share.

Motion to adjourn: 7:47pm