

Bike & Pedestrian Committee Monthly Meeting Minutes

When: Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 6pm

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

Audio recording: [Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 2/15/24 - YouTube](#)

Committee members in attendance

- Tim Callahan (TC) - absent
- Steve Gniadek (SG), Chairman
- Tom Keane (TK), Vice Chairman
- Anya Mezak (AM), Secretary
- Dave Peck (DP) - absent
- Dave Dembowski (DD) - Phone in (first 30 mins)
- Tony Wellman (TW)
- Sarah Mason (SM)
- Mike Allen (MA)

Town Dept Representatives

- Engineering – Bill Hurley (BH)
- Health – Santina Jaronko (SJ)
- Police – absent

Community Representatives

- Mary Hogue (MH) - absent

Member of the public arrived at 7:10pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

Motion to approve minutes from January 18, 2024 - passed unanimously

Town Attorney is putting on FOIA and Robert's rule training - February 28th.

- SG, SM and TK planning to attend. If any other member wishes to participate, they should contact Jennifer Carpenter directly
- TW: Video recording may be available after

SG requested details regarding emails received from Lieutenant Wiltsie and Paris in response to SM request

- SM: Couple weeks ago Riverfield principal sent an email from police asking parents at pickup & drop-off to watch out for kids when driving. SM doesn't think that was the root

of the problem. About half the school are walkers. It gets congested. There was a concern people were driving too fast and not paying attention. SM provided suggestions for better road design ideas to police. Looped committee in to see if speed humps would be appropriate as demonstration projects and for advocating for better responses with the kids. Looped the Board of Education in too.

- SM: Greenwich to Stamford. Promoting intermunicipal connectedness. Grant money available. Bill Hurley goes to their meetings sometimes as it's interesting to see what other towns are doing. Virtual meetings every quarter. SG plans to attend the next meeting

Hoboken trip

- A trip organized by Saray Roy for March 9th. Taking public transportation there together. Will do a self-guided tour of the Complete Streets infrastructure. Hoboken hasn't had had a death in 7 years. Tour is open to all.

Schools

- SM attended Fairfield-wide PTA meeting. No one there wanted to attend our meetings. The recommendation was for someone from our committee to attend their meetings. They are already using a similar system with Fairfield Cares, where a rep comes to the PTA meeting.

TW, DP and SG are meeting with the Chief of Police.

- Trying to streamline online process where citizens can make a complaint.
- Want to understand what our role is in the process.

Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant

- Application in progress, early stages.

Safe Routes for All

- SM and AM talked with Safe Routes for All in CT. Trying to decide if we are talking about individual schools vs the entire district.
- BH: Previously received \$250k + 1:1 match from the town for streets improvement in the past. BH was in charge.

Health Department

- SJ: Health department has bike reflectors and pedestrian blue light-up bracelets gear to give away at events. Originally ordered 250-500 and have given away some of them already at other events.
- Health Department open to helping with Bike & Walk days since they are all about encouraging movement.
- Ordered coloring books and stickers and crayons about bike safety

Engineering

- Up to \$5k microgrant from MetroCogg available. They have a survey BH can fill out. If town were to be given the \$5k, what's most interesting - bicycle fleets including adaptive bikes, bike locks, bike helmets, bike maintenance training and stations, programs and events that involve bike safety.
 - Decision: We want to prioritize programs and events
- BH will be meeting with Bill G to discuss - 150 streets that they'll be looking at for Complete Streets consideration.
- SG asked to make Bill G aware that the Complete Streets Master Plan needs to be approved to be finalized.

Discussion of Goals Draft

- Each member should prioritize top 5 and email SG.
- SG will set up a meeting with Bill G to share our goals. Would like to see his priorities relative to our goals.

New Business

- None

Post Road, Road Diet project by the State

- SG: Concerned there is traffic where the road diet will be especially when there is a backup on I95 and this becomes an alternate route. Offered that the bike lane could be a better option Old Post / Old Field Rd. Wants to learn more detail about the proposed protected bike lanes. TK wants to understand the effect on sidewalks. Will add this to next month's agenda for discussion.
- Follow up with Bill Hurley on when the public comment will be for the road diet.

Public Comment

- None

Meeting adjourned 7:34pm