

Bike & Pedestrian Committee Monthly Meeting Minutes

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

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

Audio recording: Meeting not recorded

Committee members in attendance

- Steve Gniadek (SG), Chairman
- Tom Keane (TK), Vice Chairman
- Anya Mezak (AM), Secretary
- Sarah Mason (SM)
- Mike Allen (MA)

Town Dept Representatives

- Engineering – Bill Hurley (BH)
- Health – Santina Jaronko (SJ) via Zoom
- Police - Frank DeAngelis (FD)

Community Representatives

- Forestry Committee - Mary Hogue (MH) via Zoom

One member of the public: Alyssa Israel

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm

Motion to approve minutes from March 22 - passed unanimously

Presentation from CDOT by Johnathan Corilla and Chris Lockhart. Discussion highlights below:

- Not sufficient space for protected bike lanes within the existing footprint
- If we want a painted bike lane
 - Not opposed to painted bike lanes.
 - Would need more public outreach to get approval for no parking
 - Town would need to maintain the lane so would need a commitment from them
 - Open to putting bike lane markers down but would need to coordinate with Design
- Ped improvements - especially around bus stops such as River St and Mill Hill Rd
 - Not putting bus bumpouts
 - Can look into it

- Not opposed to crosswalks but doesn't think crosswalks alone will make it safer. Would need to put ADA ramps at those locations. Need to make sure it's a safe spot so that cars can see and stop in enough time.
- Any request around bus stops should come from the town
- Are we lowering the speed limit on any part of the stretch?
 - The posted speed limits will not be revised
 - Would require a lot more road redesign (ex. bumpouts, trees etc.)
- Objective of the project is to reduce crashes by 26%
- Bike & Ped team is asking to consider adding crosshatch in between the extended patch of double yellow lines south of Mill Plain Road
 - Potentially the town could own (create and maintain) these markings
- Comment from Alyssa Israel of the public
 - Concerned around Pine Creek Rd.
 - Happy to hear there will be left hand turn signals in both directions.

Open Committee position will be filled at May 1st Board of Selectmen meeting.

Next Saturday, YMCA Healthy Kids event. MA and TC will be helping with sizing free kid helmets

May is National Bicycle Safety Month. SG will solicit ice cream gift certificates to give out to kids under 15 wearing helmets. Police would provide warning and informative flyers to those not wearing helmets. Currently SG is asking Chief for their support.

SM and AM can send a message through the Fairfield Council PTA about helmet wearing. PTA Green Teams are also doing a weekly tip so it can go through that.

Could add an article to First Selectman's email to let them know about the bike buses and walking. Maybe other schools will want them too! Anya to look into this

AM: Working with Chaz on moving forward with the biking workshops

FD: Stratfield traffic lights have been updated to work as before (exclusive)

BH: Town submitted application for Safe Streets For All Grant (SS4A) application

BH and Megha J. are looking at the list of streets and finding candidates for Complete Streets improvements. These can also be made within a year of the road work being done. There hasn't been any additional funding for Complete Streets. Money is coming out of DPW.

Tony Wellman (TW) sent an update on FaceBook: Bike & Ped page went from 58 to 72 followers. Trying to get admin access to Instagram. Drafting revisions for our FBPC town website.

BH: Working with Sacred Heart to make ped improvements around Park Ave and also working with MetroCOG. Could see \$2m worth of improvements.

MH: Working with town to recertify the town for Sustainable CT. Fairfield has always participated and received the top level. This year there is a newer top certification that she is shooting for.

Motion to adjourn: 7:26pm.