

# Bike & Pedestrian Committee Monthly Meeting Minutes

**When:** Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 6pm

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

**Audio recording:** [Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 7/20/23 - YouTube](#)

Committee members in attendance

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

Town Dept Representatives

- Engineering – Bill Hurley & Megha Jain (BH)
- Health – Santina Jaronko (SJ)
- Police Sergeant – Evan Kaesmann

Community Representatives

- Mary Hogue (Sustainable Fairfield and Forestry Committee)

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm

Motion to approve minutes from June 15, 2023 - passed unanimously.

We need a school liaison to attend our meetings

- Considering maybe someone from the PTA.
- AM offered to be liaison to PTA herself.
- SG - we need someone who collects feedback from the community since the Bike & Ped committee doesn't know what roads should be looked at.
- AM has reached out to the Safe Routes to Schools CT program to register Fairfield.
- Since children may represent the single largest population of bikers and pedestrians.

Motion to approve Anya Mezak as secretary passed unanimously.

Discussion about moving meeting start time earlier. Decision is to keep meeting start as is (6:00pm).

TK will be running August 17th meeting.

SG & TW are tasked with figuring out a new system for how we want to use our email address

- Specifically - Should it be forwarded to everyone or just the chairman

Need to create a process for how we want to disseminate our communication to the community.

- We don't want to create our own social media presence and would rather use existing (ex Brenda's biweekly town email)
- Decision made that we will start sending messages strictly through the biweekly town email and the PD facebook page.
- MH recommended using Green Teams through the PTA as that is disseminated widely already.

Walking tips

- We're going to hold off on sending out walking tips until the fall to coincide with pedestrian safety month (November)

SJ applied for a grant

- Current grant through the state was competitive. Submitted a few weeks ago. Should hear back on August 1st. If we don't get it, lose revenue for sidewalk improvements and bike routes etc. Write for \$150k over 5 years or \$30/year.
- Have \$15K grant money to spend by Sep 30th. Will do the South Pine Creek sidewalk improvements.
- One of the bike pumps is broken and they will be buying and replacing old one.
- State gave \$7k for Greenfield Hill bike route but the state never put it in our contract. We can still get the money or the signage but it has to go through the state and the vendor currently using is not through the state so need to get 3 bids. Min bid threshold currently is just \$3k (unlike \$25k in most towns). Wanted to change this in the recent town charger change proposal but it had many other things in it.

Update on Mill Plain crosswalks from Engineering

- Bid has been awarded. Hoping to start in the next 2 weeks.
- Lots of recap of past conversations with the state around extending the median but state refused. Crosswalk just seems very long with no refuge for pedestrians along the way. Stoplight is not possible at that spot due to MUTCD guidelines.

Update on Villa Ave from Engineering

- There are cones on Villa laid out to see if it slows down the traffic. Waiting on results.
- Using black hat data for monitoring results - measures speed, car vs truck.
- Expect speed to go down 5-7 miles.
- AM brought up concerns to make sure that the current proposal includes a safe path for bicyclists to use

Grant application from Engineering

- Tomorrow submitting community connectivity grant - McKinley School Neighborhood. Proposing 16,000 sq ft of sidewalk. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile on Lenox, Cardinal and Knapps Hwy. Should be made of concrete which costs \$500k/mile.
- The sidewalk leading to the Fairfield Warde High School is in need of repair (AM). Current project proposal would not go that far though.
- Want to connect an area of Black Rock Turnpike where there is a bus shelter but no sidewalk.
- Steve wrote a letter as the chairman of the Bike & Ped to show support.

#### Forestry Committee (MH)

- 150 street trees being planted this season plus a waitlist
- Open to new pocket park ideas for them to plant trees on

#### Feedback for the messaging around pedestrian walking best practices

#### Bike bus

- Did one last school year at Stratfield (May 12, 2023)
- Planning for another this October 4th and in May for Stratfield. For May, hoping to bring it to lots of different schools.

Respectfully submitted by Anya Mezak, Secretary