

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE FAIRFIELD
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JULY 10th, 2013
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
SULLIVAN INDEPENDENCE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrew Graceffa, Jack Franzen, Alyssa Israel, Meg Capodanno, Katina Wolfe, Clif Meyers, Larry Ogren, Betsy Gardner **ABSENT:** Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Selectman, Kirstin Etela. **ADVISORS PRESENT:**

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Andrew Graceffa, Chair.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The June 12th, 2013 minutes were passed unanimously by the Committee.

III. BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVAL: Andrew Graceffa congratulated the committee on the Board of Selectmen endorsement of Draft 9 of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan on June 5th.

IV. PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD) & ZONING REGULATION INTEGRATION. Mr. Graceffa said that Jim Wendt and Joe Devonshuk, the town's planning staff, are working with the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council on updating the POCD, something that must occur every 10 years by state statute. In his recent communications with Mr. Graceffa, Mr. Wendt was not specific about when the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan would be considered by the Town Plan & Zoning Commission for integration into the POCD. Mr. Wendt was invited to attend today's meeting but was unable to attend.

Alyssa Israel heard that Mr. Wendt is interested in combining our proposed "bicycling and pedestrian plan" regulations with the Forestry Committee's "landscape plan" regulations.

V. COMMERCE DRIVE PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENT FORUM DISCUSSION. Andrew Graceffa and Alyssa Israel attended the public information meeting (along with about 20 other residents) on Thursday, June 27th, 2013 regarding a proposed project to provide pedestrian, bicycle and streetscape enhancements in the Kings Highway and Commerce Drive neighborhoods and in the vicinity of the new commuter rail station. Funding for this project is expected to come from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which requires a 20% local match for both design and construction phase. The project cost is estimated at \$1.2 million.

Specific suggestions by attendees included:

- Completing sidewalk gaps along tributary streets (i.e. Castle Avenue)
- Adding green infrastructure such as islands that would also serve as pedestrian refuges along King's Highway.

- Reducing cut through traffic on Vermont Avenue and other tributaries to the Metro Center.

Bill Hurley, Town Engineer and Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development, stated that community support for these bicycle and pedestrian improvements are key to the success of this project.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mill Plain Bike Route Extension: Andrew Graceffa shared Sarah Levy’s proposed grant budget for the 2013-2014 grant year.

\$ 5500	Shoulder line striping on extension of Mill Plain Bike Route
2000	Bike Route signs for extension of Mill Plain Bike Route
750	Stencils and Sharrows
1500	Bike Racks for Mill Plain Bike Route
<u>501</u>	Events/educational materials/marketing
\$10,251	

All the work done to date on Mill Plain came from the 2012-13 portion of the grant. The line items above can be modified easily with a budget revision sent to the State.

The Committee discussed possible extensions for the Mill Plain Bike Route:

1. Mill Plain Road to Sturges Road to Bronson Road to Pequot Avenue
2. Mill Plain Road to North Pine Creek to South Pine Creek
3. Unquowa Road to the Old Post to the Beach Loop (Beach Road to Fairfield Beach Road to Reef Road).

North Benson Railroad Underpass: Alyssa Israel said that she learned from Bill Hurley that it is too late to put a sidewalk under the North Benson RR Underpass. Apparently, public hearings were held by DOT in 2001 and at the time, First Selectman Ken Flatto, Fire Chief Felner and a few residents opposed the widening of the underpass which would have allowed for a sidewalk.

Given this reality, the Committee discussed shoulder line striping and plastic bollards that might create a visual separation between vehicles and pedestrians walking under the RR pass.

Andrew Graceffa said he would run these ideas and the bike route ideas by Bill Hurley.

Snow Shoveling of Sidewalks: Alyssa Israel said that she independently submitted a proposal to the Fairfield Police Commission suggesting that police officers educate residents about the town snow shoveling ordinance (by knocking on doors and delivering a postcard), a program modeled after Darien, CT. Meg Capodanno suggested additional education through the media at the same time leaf pickup schedules are published.

Some Committee members said they would be interested in attending the Police Commission meeting in support of this proposal. Larry Ogren, who lived in Darien for 26 years, said he received these postcards on several occasions but had difficulty complying with the town ordinance due to snow plows continuously throwing street snow onto his sidewalk. Alyssa Israel said that this problem should be discussed with the Police Commission to solicit their ideas for a solution.

Chairman Announcement: Andrew Graceffa announced that he is running for a position on the Town Plan & Zoning Commission in November. In light of a heavy campaign schedule over the next 3 months, he asked for another committee member to replace him as Chair until the end of the Committee's charge in December 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Israel, Secretary