

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE FAIRFIELD
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 14TH, 2013
2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
SULLIVAN INDEPENDENCE HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrew Graceffa, Jack Franzen, Alyssa Israel, Meg Capodanno, Betsy Gardner **ABSENT:** Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Selectman, Katina Wolfe, Larry Ogren, Clif Meyers, Kirstin Etela. **ADVISORS PRESENT:** Sarah Levy, Public Health Educator, Daun Lyon, FBWC Treasurer.

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Andrew Graceffa, Chair.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The July 10th, 2013 minutes were passed unanimously by the Committee.

III. ZONING REGULATION AMENDMENTS: Jim Wendt, Assistant Director of the Town Plan and Zoning Department made some minor revisions to the Committee's proposed zoning regulation amendments: He moved them from the General Provisions and to the Special Permit section which applies to all applications except for 1-3 family homes.

To the Subdivision Regulations Section 3.10 Sidewalks: Mr. Wendt added "The Commission may adjust the aforesaid requirements to particular circumstances of lot lines, topography, soil conditions, and site design consistent with sound engineering judgment while preserving the purpose and intent of such requirements."

The Committee agreed with Mr. Wendt's changes. Ms. Israel said that she would correct minor misspellings and resubmit the regulations to Mr. Wendt along with the Forestry Committee's proposed regulations amendments.

IV. MASTER PLAN/POCD INTEGRATION UPDATE: Mr. Graceffa said that he still has not been given specific information about when the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan would be considered by the Town Plan & Zoning Commission (TPZ) for integration into the POCD. He believes it will likely be heard by TPZ in January 2014 or soon thereafter.

V. SNOW SHOVELING EDUCATION/POLICE COMMISSION UPDATE. Ms. Israel was told that her proposed snow shoveling education plan (attached) will be heard by the Police Commission in October 2013. Date TBA.

The Committee discussed how challenging snow removal can be for some elderly residents. Ms. Israel described a volunteer program she coordinated in Darien called "Shoveling for Seniors" which assigned high school students to shovel sidewalks for the Town's elderly. Ms. Gardener said she would ask the Fairfield Senior Center director about the possibility of starting a similar program in Fairfield.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mill Plain Bike Route Extension: Jack Franzen met with George Russell, President of the Sasquanaug Association. Mr. Russell was initially positive about extending the Mill Plain route into Southport and said he would take a look at the route and run the idea by area residents.

Ms. Israel spoke to the Paige Herman, President of the Fairfield Beach Residents Association and was asked to gauge support for the proposed beach loop bike route at their September 11th Annual Meeting.

Mr. Graceffa expressed the need for more bike route signage on Mill Plain Road to improve the visibility of the route.

North Benson Railroad Underpass: The Committee voted unanimously to send a letter to DOT to request a “pedestrian shoulder” through the railroad underpass.

FBWC: Daun Lyon reported that there is \$845 in the FBWC bank account. Mr. Graceffa said that our September 11th meeting may be a good time to discuss the future of the two committees, committee structure and board membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Israel, Secretary

From: Alyssa Israel [<mailto:Alisrael@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2013 10:15 AM

To: Jack Franzen; Levy, Sarah; Hurley, William; 'Andrew Graceffa'; alisrael@sbcglobal.net

Subject: 7/17/13 Mill Plain Bike Route Mini-Meeting Minutes

Mill Plain Bike Route Mini-Meeting Minutes

July 17th, 2013 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

First Floor Conference Room, Independence Hall

In Attendance: Bill Hurley, Sarah Levy, Jack Franzen, Alyssa Israel

Following a discussion about the DPH Preventive Services Block Grant and the various DOT projects around town, the subcommittee came up with several ideas to discuss with the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee at our next meeting:

- Write a letter to DOT (perhaps to both the Commissioner and project manager Robert Mosback) with a request to paint a pedestrian shoulder under the North Benson RR underpass **AND TO PROVIDE SHARE THE ROAD SIGN** or other type of warning sign?
- Strategize about how to improve communication with DOT about the proposed Mill Plain Road/Carter Henry intersection, upper Black Rock Turnpike, and other state road improvement projects.
- **Communicate with** the 3 **potential** neighborhoods (Southport, Beach and South Pine Creek) to see which one **SUPPORTS** the bike route extension the most.
- Consider putting a bike lane through the Downtown Rail Station to connect Unquowa Road with Mill Plain Road.

Respectfully submitted by,

Alyssa Israel with corrections by William Hurley

Alyssa Israel's Submission to the Police Commission on 6/28/13

Please describe the problem:

This past winter and prior winters with heavy snow fall, I've observed that many property owners fail to adequately shovel their sidewalks. Another problem is that commercially plowed snow is often pushed into large piles that block our sidewalks.

It was nearly impossible to walk around my neighborhood, to our downtown, and in any of our commercial areas from February 9th, 2013 (Nemo) to about mid-March when the snow and ice had completely melted. I also found driving to be hazardous due to sight line obstructions created by snow piles that were pushed into the public right of way.

Please describe the proposed solution:

When I worked in Darien, I noticed high compliance with their snow shoveling ordinance. I believe that this is largely due to the fact that Darien police officers knock on doors along the main roads, near schools and in the commercial districts. The officers hand property owners a postcard stating the Town's snow shoveling ordinance. The postcard and the personal communication between the officer and property owner are enough to encourage compliance. Fines have not been necessary (personal communication with Captain Fred Komm, Darien Police Department, March 4th, 2013).

I would like to suggest a similar educational outreach program targeting property owners in high pedestrian areas around town. In addition to educating property owners about our snow shoveling ordinance, I think it is also important for police officers to request that commercial property owners haul away the snow rather than piling it up in a way that creates a hazard to both pedestrians and motorists.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this proposed solution.