

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLAN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 11, 2013
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
SULLIVAN INDEPENDENCE HALL**

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

ABSENT: Kirstin Etela.

ADVISORS PRESENT: Bill Hurley, Sarah Levy, Joe Michelangelo, Doug Fried, Charles Case, Sue McAteer.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Alyssa Israel, Chair.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The November 13, 2013 minutes were passed unanimously by the Committee.

3. WELCOME JOE MICHELANGELO, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

- a) Talked about his experience with the Town of Monroe and the Housatonic Rail Trail, an unpaved, recreational trail. There is also the Chesire-Farmington Canal Trail that is paved and used more for transportation and not just recreation. These two trails are maintained by the respective towns with minimal maintenance. It was suggested that since the Town owns land around the beach area the Committee should pursue and build a network of routes around the area. Same thing could be done around the Hoydens Hill area.
- b) Bob Tota suggested approaching Aquarion about the tree removal in the upper reservoir area and work with the Town to establish paths. Cliff Myers suggested connecting all the open spaces.
- c) Bill Hurley mentioned that Route 58 is on the State list to be paved in 2014/2015. Route will just be paved, not widened for bike routes.
- d) Town was awarded a \$1.2 million grant after 7 years of applying. Grant will be used for sidewalks, curbing and walkways between Cumberland Farms and BOE building on Kings Highway. Recommendation is to take out medium strip and give more area on both shoulders. Andrew Graceffa suggested upgrades to Kings Highway and to fix the pedestrian walkways in the Commerce Drive/Kings Highway plan.
- e) It is currently budget time for operating and capital expenses. Sidewalk improvements are in the budget. \$80,000 for sidewalk improvements town-wide and \$100,000 for sidewalk/streetscape improvements in the downtown.

3. ADDITIONAL MILL PLAIN BIKE ROUTE SIGNAGE-VOTE TO OK BILL

HURLEY'S PLACEMEMT SUGGESTIONS: Bill Hurley mentioned that currant signage on Mill Plain Road is according to code, 7 feet high which is the allowed high of signs in urban areas if parking is allowed on the street. Committee asked if some signs could be lowed and Mr. Hurley said he would look into. Mr. Hurley and Mr. Case to review the new suggested signage locations with the neighborhood committee. They will also look into piggy

backing on post with current signage, Ms. Israel asked if Bike Route signs could be put on Unquowa Road. Additional stencils may be placed on Unquowa Road depending on budget. Motion made by Jack Franzen to accept proposed locations. Second by Andrew Graceffa. Motion passed unanimously.

4. MILL PLAIN BIKE ROUTE EXTENSION: OUTREACH TO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS FOR CONSENT

- a) Bill Hurley spoke to a representative on the Lake Hills association. There will be a January meeting of the Association and it was suggested that Committee members attend the meeting.
- b) Jack Franzen spoke to a representative of the Sasquanaug Association and there was no negative feedback.
- c) Volunteers to pursue suggested bike routes are as follows:
 - Brookside Drive – Lake Mohegan: Christin McCarthy Vahey and Andrew Graceffa
 - Mill Plain to Southport: Jack Franzen and Doug Fried. Charles Case will make introductions to Mill Plain neighborhood Association.
 - RR Station – Mill Plain Loop: put on hold

5. SHOVELING FOR SENIORS UPDATE: Betsy said that there was no further information and that she would try to have some for the next meeting. Cristin will give Betsy the name of a PTA person and Sue will also provide names of PTA people to take to the next Shoveling with Seniors meeting with Terry and Sarah (and we will invite Sue to come as well). Charles Case said that high school students shoveled in his neighborhood last year and he has their contact information.

6. TPZ HEARING AND SHOVELING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE: Ms. Israel's call has not been returned by the Police Department. Joe has been sending people out to check on shoveling of sidewalks (the Marina Manager) within the first 24 hours of snowfall; in response to Andy's question, yes, fines have been levied. Joe will handle enforcement of regulations and Alyssa will drop it with the Police. Andy asked whether shoveling regulations were on the Town website; Joe said they put out a press release each year and it is probably on the website.

7. MARKETING THE PLAN: Deferred (Andy moved, Betsy seconded).

8. PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE CHARGE BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Alyssa passed out models of committee descriptions, a FBWC newsletter, and a ballot on the new Standing Committee including Name of Committee, Member Terms, Staff Involvement, Size of Committee, and Proposed Powers and Duties. Each was discussed briefly and committee members voted by passing in their marked paper ballots. For Staff Involvement, Charles Case suggested having a PTA person. Jessica Gerber, a member of the Board of Education, was also recommended.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Alyssa talked with Jim Wendt and the Bike/Ped regulations will probably come before the TPZ in January. Committee members will be informed.

10. VOTE ON THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS (Cristin reminded us that we had to do this). Meet the second Wednesday of each month, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. (Andy moved, Betsy seconded).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Katina Wolfe, Secretary
Betsy Gardner