

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday February 12, 2024, 7:00 PM

Room 407, Town Hall

1. Call to Order 7:01 pm, meeting opened.

Attendance

Commissioners present: Quorum achieved - Ed Pawlak, Jill Morawski, Jen Bowman, Ed Perzanowski, Colin Gillespie, Jon Wenz, Tristan Sokol, Andrea Belli.

Also: as many as 10 residents and Bike West Hartford members attended.

2. Introductions completed

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Motion to approve and seconded ... Unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

a. West Hartford Complete Streets Policy revisited

- Applies to all town and state sponsored improvements
- Question shared - can the "at discretion" elements for Complete Streets be removed? Can it be re-worded? (Policy references old term "Bicycle Advisory Committee" - so dated anyway)
- Statement made by commissioner - are exceptions even brought to PBC, as required by the Policy? It seems they are not.
- Statement made by resident: complete streets may be outdated and does it need a grand vision instead of piecemeal projects?
- All ideas and questions above to be considered in a future PBC meeting.

b. Vision Zero Task Force update

- Draft action plan may be presented soon to CPED Subcommittee with a goal of formal adoption.
- Ed Pawlak brought up that previously it seemed that quick build projects were not prioritized and that many projects seemed to be back dated to end of overall Vision Zero initiative.
- However, it is clear that now Town of WH has responded and brought forth quick build projects to be done in 2024. For example: compiling crash response team, speed cameras to be deployed, accessible ped signals (10) to be installed, improved lighting at crosswalks, RRFBs to be installed in 11 new locations, 5 roadway reflective treatments to be implemented, 8 wider edge lines planned, 10 speed feedbacks units will be installed at HIN areas,

daylighting sign lines to be considered at tough intersections, bike lanes on Boulevard, road safety Road Safety Audit of Albany Avenue between North Main and Steele on Albany Ave, dynamic no turn on red signs to be put in 4 locations, raised crosswalks will be built on BLVD and Fern, center line rumble strips to come to Route 189, flashing stop signs to be installed at Wardwell Rd, curve warning signage will be implemented in various locations, crosswalk on Raymond and Dinah roads will be installed, signing and pavement marking upgrades, traffic signal backplates (town signals on HIN) also included

- Question brought up - who is accountable to see these initiatives get done? Ed Pawlak stated accountability is set in the Action Plan. And Bike WH is recognizing when initiatives are completed on social media.
- Question asked if effectiveness of these initiatives is being measured? Commissioners believe so but will check.

c. West Hartford Center Infrastructure Master Plan update

- Consultants hired on designs for WH Center...public meeting took place in early Feb 2024.
- Ed Pawlak shared the designs for both LaSalle and Farmington Ave. Highlighted most friendly option to non-motorized uses on both streets - Option A.
- Commissioners asked if we can endorse a particular option and communicate this to town officials.
- PBC moved and seconded that we recommend option A for both streets LaSalle Road and Farmington Ave through a letter from PBC to Town Council. Motion approved unanimously.

d. Crosswalks recommended for improved safety countermeasures

- PBC has created a Google doc containing un-signalized crosswalks that need safety improvements.
- Ed Pawlak requested that PBC commissioners expand this list to include more crosswalks, especially in southern part of WH as this is underrepresented in current Google document. Reference documents that Ed sent.

5. New Business

a. Engineering update

- A bicycle network map with new facilities has been recommended to Town by FHI Studio
- Ed Pawlak asked commissioners to compile feedback to this map as it will be finalized by May.
 - So PBC feedback needed by Feb 20. Ed Perzanowski will compile all PBC input.
 - Instructions on feedback: Is anything missing? Anything omitted? What doesn't belong?
 - Question: Also, why was "protected bike lanes" not included? Or is it the same as "separated"?
 - Note: selection matrix will provide guidance for the selection of bicycle facilities based on traffic volume and traffic speed.

- Note: USJ student asked if PBC can consider the needs of the university in planning lanes, etc. by including USJ students (and input taken) in March PBC meeting.
- Concern over bicycle facility survey (use, complexity, and potential bias) was brought up. Many at the meeting found the survey to be arduous and time-consuming. Results should be taken with a grain of salt if sample size too small.

b. P&Z update - none

c. PBC Annual Report

- Ed Pawlak has proposed that PBC not produce an annual report as it is not required by Town of WH. Table decision for another meeting.

d. Public Meetings Webinar summary

6. Around Town

- Green paint question: CROG will assemble aggregated multi town buy for green paint. West Hartford is participating in this effort.
- Complete Streets annual report - town working on this.
- AARP grant could be considered to protect elderly especially as these are the population that have been affected in severe crashes. Bike WH asked if a PBC commissioner can attend a meeting 2/15 or 2/16. Colin Gillespie volunteered and will attend at 8 am 2/16

a. "Please Slow Down" signs on Tunxis Road

- Ed Pawlak shared use of "please slow down signs" on Tunxis Road. A "pre/post" experiment (through traffic counters) will be used to determine effectiveness of the lawn signs in slowing down traffic.

7. From the Library

a. Michael Walsh article in 1/25/24 West Hartford News re: 2023 pedestrian crashes in West Hartford

<https://www.ctinsider.com/westhartford/article/west-hartford-ct-pedestrian-cyclist-car-crash-data-18610487.php>

8. Announcements

9. 3/11/2024 PBC meeting - email items you would like included on the agenda to Ed Pawlak (ecosys88@gmail.com)

10. Adjourn. At 8:49 pm Motioned carried to adjourn.