

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday November 13, 2023, 7:00 PM

Room 407, Town Hall

1. Call to Order at 7:01 pm

Attendance (quorum achieved)

Ed Pawlak

Jill Morawski

Paul Hogan

Jen Bowman

Ed Perzanowski

Colin Gillespie

Jon Wenz

Tristan Sokol

2. Introductions

3. Approval of previous (Oct 10th) meeting's minutes 1st motion Jon Wenz 2nd motion Jill Morawski. Approved unanimously.

4. Old Business

a. Vision Zero (VZ) Task Force update

1. Park Road Road Safety Audit in Oct. Accessibility and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists reviewed.

- Park Rd and Prospect Rd intersection. NOTED: ramp had poor and skewed access to crosswalk. And a tactile surface was not adhered to ramp.
- Park Lane Pizza near parking area for J. Rene. Witnessed car hitting lighted sign and pulled up bricks. Ambulance and police car came.

- Discussed on street parking along way from Quaker to Prospect. Officials present at audit felt these parking spaces will be preserved (based on business feedback) except some possible “day lighting” of unsafe intersections or driveways. Task Force consultant and commissioners discussed possibilities of bicycle facilities but recognized constraints. Two way cycle track discussed and found directionally feasible ... consultant took under consideration. Also note: funding NOT available to redo sidewalks - all money to go to road resurfacing.
- Question asked about where funding came from and was it “Complete Streets”? Needs to be confirmed.

2.VZ task force work is ongoing, and the consultants will submit a final Action Plan in January 2024 to Town Council for approval. Town will create a Vision Zero advisory committee. Ed said anyone can apply. This VZ Committee will meet quarterly to review progress on VZ's work and prepare an annual report including metrics (e.g. number of serious or fatal crashes, etc.). Committee could provide accountability that plan is executed with fidelity.

3.Idea shared in group - use road safety audits in a prioritized fashion (high injury network, equity, safety concerns raised in web mapping survey, etc.). Audits could consider quick build projects for traffic calming and safety improvements.

4.Update: Speed management pilot program (grant received) will include 15 speed cameras with warnings at each. West Hartford can learn from experiences of other municipalities. Of note: pilot will only monitor speeding violations ... not infractions at red lights, stop signs, etc. Locations for speed cameras not yet determined. High injury network, schools, priority locations will play a part in determining spots.

5.2nd public meeting for Vision Zero on Dec 6 at Noah Webster Library 5:30 to 7:30. Question asked if a draft Action Plan will be shared? Also expressed that if information of substance was shared then attendance at public meetings will be boosted. Also, is meeting time and location shared enough?

Jon Wenz moved: Can commission ask VZ to better publicize the VZ meetings and encourage a draft action plan be shared ASAP. 2nd: Jen Bowman. Approved unanimously.

Ed will be confirming if the plan can be or will be shared.

Of note: VZ supplemental materials are available on the West Hartford website.

Of note: Jan 8 will be last VZ task force meeting.

b. Bicycle Network Map revision project

FHI Studio consultants will be revising bicycle facility plan and bicycle network map. This group will likely attend the January WHPD Commission meetings. Ed suggested

that text descriptions be shared via a table to commission and commissioners will “vote” via spreadsheet for priority ranking.

Jill M and others suggested criteria to help rankings:

- Social justice
- Commuting
- Schools and parks
- Highest crash data
- Commerce and other destinations
- Accessibility to network
- Connecting to other communities

c. Enhanced crosswalk project

The PBC is engaged in a project to enhance crosswalks in town. Not finalized yet. But Ed suggested this a lower prioritized project compared to other initiatives. Ed asked that WHPB commissioners complete their input to this Google document for a later meeting. WH Citizen asked: Can the document be shared publicly? ... Ed will investigate a way this can be done. Town citizen asked how one needs to bring dangerous cross walks to the attention of town officials. Suggestion from group that citizens take video clips/ photos and share them with town.

d. Albany Avenue/North Main Street Intersection DOT project

Bishops corner DOT safety project. Ed shared new DOT suggested solution image for intersection. Ed had asked if DOT can include bike lanes, and they said they were surprised to receive this bike facility feedback. They said on-street bike lanes would be too dangerous. DOT is investigating possibilities however, including creating a multi-use pathway within the sidewalk right-of-way. Citizen expressed that Complete Streets be considered and that a public hearing should be scheduled before final plans be approved.

- Jon Wenz moved that CT DOT project manager be invited to present an updated conceptual redesign in an upcoming WHPB commission meeting 2nd Tristan Sokol. Approved unanimously.

5. New Business

a. Engineering update

Trout Brook phase 7 - roughly constructed now and will be completed by end of Nov 2023.

New Park Ave - design will be completed (2 way cycle track) this winter. Ed Perzanowski asked if VHB consultants could come by commission meeting? Ed Pawlak will invite them.

b. P&Z update

Active project: former UConn campus property redevelopment. Wetland activities are being reviewed. Developer will continue design plans after this and then ped/bike infrastructure will be considered by PBC.

c. Park Road Road Safety Audit

Covered above.

6. Around Town

No subjects.

7. From the Library

No subjects.

8. Announcements

- World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims November 19, 2023 in Bushnell Park
- Food donation bike ride for Thanksgiving Nov 18 (see BiCiCo website)
- King Phillip Bike Bus 7:15 am every Wednesday - Join at Ardmore and Fern (confirm address)

9. 12/11/2023 PBC meeting - email items you would like included on the agenda to Ed Pawlak (ecosys88@gmail.com)

OTHER: commission reviewed and approved Ed's suggestions to 2024 meeting calendar

Only exceptions:

April 1 for WH public school vacation

Oct 15 for Columbus Day

Nov 12 for Veterans Day

OTHER: commission will continue meeting in Rm 400 at Town Hall for 2024

10. Move to Adjourn Tristan Sokul and seconded Jen Bowman. Meeting Adjourned 8:40 pm