

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday December 09, 2024, 7:00 PM

Room 400, Town Hall

1. Call to Order, Attendance 7:02pm

Ed Pawlak(EP), Jen Bowman(JB), Jill Morawski(JM), John Wenz(JW), Andrea Belli(AB), Edward Perzanowski(Epe)

2. Introductions

26 community members present including representation from Bike West Hartford, concerned citizens, 2 Media crews and 2 Police officers

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously

4. New Business:

- a. Most recent pedestrian fatality in West Hartford: 2nd fatality remembered with a moment of silence. EP invites all the attendees to conduct a civil and respectful debate
- b. Greg Sommer, Town Engineer, provided updates on road safety projects in town including Vision Zero and Safe Streets and Roads initiatives
- c. Mr. Rick Ledwith, Town Manager, provided an update on the grants received and the rationale behind the selection of Option C for the center renovation plan. In their opinion this choice brings safer conditions for Bicyclists and Pedestrians accessing the center area. Award of the winning contractor will need to be issued by Dec 31st to secure funding.
- d. JB and JW voiced concerns about why the PBC was not consulted sufficiently before the decision was made.
- e. Mobility Hubs: decision not finalized on the set up. PBC input will be welcomed
- f. JW voiced concerns about the safety of diagonal parking choice and points at data demonstrating how bike friendly infrastructures benefit local businesses. Also, over the last few years the bike ridership has increased, and the town need to better protect cyclists and pedestrians
- g. JB+EP : Missed opportunity for the town by not expanding the safety of the center by selecting Option A

Questions answered by Rick and Greg:

- a. Question 3: Green Paint usage is more expensive (12\$/sqm) town council to decide if it will be used going forward
- b. Question 4: Data on crashes to be reported on Year over Year change rather than on a 5 year average
- c. Quick Builds: 7 projects should be concluded by the end of this year (7M\$ spend)
- d. AB asked if the PBC brings value to the town. Rick confirms the added value and good ideas that the PBC has contributed so far
- e. Question 5: Greg to investigate the reasons why cameras do not detect cyclists at the entrance to MDC reservoirs on Farmington Avenue. EP asked town to check if all bike detection cameras in town are working.
- f. Question 6: More signs should be added reminding 3ft distance between cars and bicyclists
- g. Question 7: Phase 3 of the trout brook trail: EP requested planters on Phase 3 to improve safety and aesthetics. Greg to evaluate
- h. Question 8: Speed limits and traffic violations: the public feels that police are not effective at reducing such violations. EP requested a uniform 25 MPH speed limit on all residential roads in town. Greg said he would evaluate this request.

Questions from public in attendance:

- Red light violations not punished: Rick announced the roll out of red-light camera and speed camera soon
- Darkness and poor lighting are the cause of accidents: Rick confirmed a revamp of lights which should improve the wattage and the luminosity of the utility lights
- JW requested to invite the chief of police for one of the next PBC meetings
- School Zones: Rick announced the potential improvement/expansion of the current 2 school zones in town

JW requested to add to the meeting minutes his strong objection to the decision of selecting Option C for the center

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned unanimously at 8:57pm