

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday Feb 9th , 2026, 7:02 PM

Room 400, Town Hall.

Commissioners: Ed Pawlak, Jen Bowman., Lisa Tanen-LaFontaine., Andrea Belli., Brendan Wheeler, Tristan Sokol.

Members of the community: Adam Lehenbauer, Mac Fentyl, Channel8 Crew, Christen Noone, Marc and Richard Chylensky (New Britain)

Town Officials: None

1. Call to Order, Attendance- quorum reached

2. Introductions

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes- approved unanimously

4. Old Business

a. PBC has invited Adrienne Billings-Smith to attend a future meeting to discuss transportation equity issues in town. Adrienne tentatively accepted and proposed the April or May PBC meeting dates

b. PBC sent letter to Mayor Cantor and Town Council regarding chronic understaffing in Engineering Division

5. New Business

a. Brookside Boulevard:

The commission heard complaints from concerned local residents who explained the danger that the road design and lack of sidewalks pose to pedestrians and cyclists. This issue has already been brought to the attention of the town engineer more than two years ago, but no action has been taken.

Concerned neighbors reported the history of near misses and complaints made to the town over the last 2+ years. No actions were taken from the town part even after a petition was filed with over 100 signatures demanding action.

Ed P. discussed this topic with Greg Sommer during a monthly regular call.

Greg S. responded that the town has received requests to close sidewalk gaps on Brookside and Cliffmore. Utilities issues, lack of funding and snow removal on sidewalks are the main

concerns. This area has been included in initiative aiming to close the sidewalk gaps for this year. Some new sidewalks will be built this year but it is not clear which ones.

Regarding vertical traffic calming options, the challenge is that this stretch of road is considered a collector road and therefore emergency vehicles use it.

The commission unanimously approved the motion to send a letter to the town in support of the Brookside Drive dangerous situation.

Greg Sommer and Rick Ledwith have been invited to the June and December meetings.

b. Engineering/Vision Zero update

- Comments from Greg Sommer about the letter flagging the understaffing of the engineering division are positive
- quick builds update: some are trials/temporary that could be turned into permanent
- Vision Zero annual report will be issued on Feb 18th 8 AM (CPED meeting)
- on Albany Avenue, DOT is still evaluating road diet options
- Bishop Corner redesign efforts: DOT is still deciding.
- New Park Avenue Complete Streets: target to start construction this summer
- La Salle Rd: bike hitches and retractable bollards will be installed (April/May)
- Farmington Av update: on hold due to weather
- Park Road/Sedwick work continue as planned
- Trout Brook trail connection to WH Center on Farmington Avenue: design phase is starting in a few week (planned completion in the winter)
- Raised Cross Walk planned: Sedwick and Park, Webster Hill and Carlton, Buena Vista crossing into the Ice Rink will all be installed this year
- Asylum Av is posted at 35MPH currently. It should be lowered to 30 MPH to promote consistent safe driving
- Road resurfacing update: Prospect Av could be soon approved
- King Philip roundabout accident update: signs have been hosted to avoid such situations happening again
- Emergency vehicles impact caused by speed bumps: the study will be discussed in the next CPED meeting (March)

- Tri-Point Greenway project update: the town planner is coordinating with Newington for RFP launch
- Fern Street bridge update: waiting for the final sign off for the state. Target completion summer 2026

c. P&Z Updates: none this month

6. Discussion of general pedestrian and bicyclist access/safety issues in town

- snow removal caused pedestrian challenges around town: e.g. bishops corner pedestrian crossings and trout brook trail exit into Farmington av

7. Announcements

- Discussion around the proposed Recommended Amendments to the Neighborhood Street Traffic Calming Program to Align with Vision Zero Principles . Target to discuss in the PBC March meeting

8. 3/9/2026 PBC meeting - email items you would like included on the agenda to Ed Pawlak (ecosys88@gmail.com)

9. Adjourn – 8:52PM