

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday March 9th 2026, 7:00 PM

Room 217, Town Hall.

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

Members of the community: Chris Timmel, Richard McSorley

Town Officials: None

1. Call to Order, **Attendance 7:05PM**

2. Introductions- **completed**

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

4. New Business

a. PBC culture of consensus and collaboration:

Ed P. invites all PBC commissioners and members of the public to collaborate, PBC commission welcomes collaborations within and outside our group

b. PBC questions and comments on Vision Zero 2025 Annual Report

Impressive work put together by the PBC commission review of the report

Suggested by Lisa that next time CPED presents a report, PBC members could be involved in providing a first draft review to ensure it does not leave any major gaps unaddressed

Ed P. will ask the commissioners to prioritize the 36 points identified in order to allow the town engineer to prioritize which points to address first

c. Draft Recommended Amendments to the Neighborhood Street Traffic Calming

Program to Align with Vision Zero Principles

Commissioner Brendan W. proposed 10 recommendations that would provide a more coherent alignment between VZ and the Neighboring Street Traffic Calming document. Before the PBC vote for implementing those recommendations during next month PBC meeting, commissioners will read all the relevant documents to prepare for the discussion.

d. Engineering/Vision Zero update

Feedback on Brookside Drive inquiry: no resolution yet as the Town Engineer is reviewing with emergency responders

Center reconstruction (Farmington Av)

- no update regarding filing an exception to complete streets policy
- road work continues
- Final paving delayed until the fall

New Park Avenue (complete street): project could be put out for bids in a couple of months

Park Road: design finalized by March (expected)

Fern Street bridge: DOT load rating OK. Waiting for the final DOT approval for bid for construction

Road resurfacing projects: Prospect Avenue analysis for a potential road diet is ongoing

Requested Town staff to attend midyear PBC meeting

Request Adrienne Billings-Smith to confirm attendance to May PBC meeting

Road Projects update: DOT review of feasibility of a Road Diet for Albany Avenue continues

5. P&Z update - **no update to report**

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

Richard M. reported a concern regarding possibly removing a bike lane around Ledgewood/Webster Hill Road as the town is adding parking areas when re-painting the surface

Commissioner Nick M. brought up resident concerns that the internal road of the proposed Community Center could be used as a cut through between South Quaker Lane and Mayflower, as it could potentially pose a risk for pedestrians and cyclists in the area, and generate disruptive traffic. Town Engineer indicated that he is not directly involved in the design of this project, but is aware of this concern. There will be public meetings to address residents' questions and concerns about this project before a final design is chosen.

7. Announcements - **none**

8. 4/6/2026 PBC meeting - email items you would like included on the agenda to Ed Pawlak (ecosys88@gmail.com)

9. Adjourn- 9:00PM