

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday June 8th 2026, 7:00 PM

Room 400, Town Hall.

Commissioners :Ed Pawlak, Andrea Belli, Brendan Wheeler, Jen Bowman, Jordan Tessler

Members of the community: Chris Timmel

Town Officials: Rick Ledwith, Adrienne Billings Smith, Duane Martin

1. Call to Order, 7:03 PM
2. Introductions
3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes- **Unanimously approved**
4. Old Business

a. Neighborhood Streets Traffic Calming Program Working Group meeting summary

Ed P. gave an update on the progress of the Working Group about the neighborhood street document revisions.

Regarding point 10 (questions for Adrienne): Rick L. stated that emergency vehicles on calls (est. 10K/year, 90%+ medical issues) primarily use collector and arterial roads, but cannot entirely avoid local streets. Priority is to keep everyone safe. PD and ambulances have no issues with raised crosswalks or speed humps since their vehicles are much smaller than fire trucks.

5. New Business

a. Equity and active transportation discussion with Adrienne Billings-Smith(ABS) and Rick Ledwith

ABS: Equity areas are the most difficult to reach.

Ed P. stated that the roads in the Elmwood neighborhoods were underrepresented in Vision Zero surveys of residents of the most dangerous roads in town, even though, for example, New Britain Avenue is one of the most crash-prone roads in West Hartford.

ABS: Celebrate, Juneteenth, Elmwood Senior Center days, Pride, Churches, African American organizations, Rotary Club, Jewish Federation, libraries, Vietnamese night market, block party at town hall are opportunities to meet residents from the "underrepresented" town areas.

ABS: a mix of technology and conventional communication are being utilized to update the community

Ed P, fall meeting with community leaders is proposed. ABS to share list of leaders.

Success of the proposed outreach program would be measured in an increase of input received.

b. Engineering/Vision Zero update

c. P&Z update

RFP for Road Safety projects (80% Federal, 20% Town founded)

Ed raised the question why only 8 out of 16 schools will be considered conceptual designs for school road safety.

Currently no Pedestrian Safety Zone are approved in CT. WeHa could be the first town.

Greg Summer Update:

- **Brookside drive update: conversations are still ongoing with property owners that would be most affected by the construction of a new sidewalk for public safety.**
- **Raised crosswalk on Fern Street/Montclair Avenue: not planned this year despite the recent crash involving a pedestrian at this crosswalk. Ed P. expressed frustration that the town does not plan to upgrade this crosswalk this year, given the important destinations on the south side of Fern Street, the large residential neighborhood to the north, and the steep hill that accelerates eastbound traffic Rick is working on that issue with Fire Department.**

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

7. Adjourned at 8:49 PM