

**COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE
CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, CT
MINUTES DECEMBER 12, 2016**

In attendance: John Hall, Beth Emery, Cindi Perugini, Howard Reid, Amy Vallincourt, Laura Baum, Tom Quirk

Minutes of the November meeting accepted.

Action Plan:

It was suggested the Action Plan be reviewed a few times per year to ensure its up to date.

Who should be notified of List of Accomplishments: suggestions

Mayor

Public Works

Put on City website

Planning and Zoning Commission

The List will be reviewed by Howard and forwarded to members for review.

January 31, 2017 Dekoven House

The Jonah Center will be hosting a public meeting with the recycling, urban forestry and Clean Energy Task Force. Good time to introduce public to Complete Streets and the accomplishments.

Renaming the West Side Trail:

The trail has been identified as numerous names, some of which are inappropriate for its purpose. Complete Streets would like to utilize a name for the trail that would suggest its proper use.

For CS purposes at this meeting, it would be referred to as the "West Lake Bike and Walk Path." Beth will contact Planning and Engineering to discuss a consistent name for the trail.

West Street and Washington Street pedestrian crossing/lights:

Possibly find an ally in the area who utilizes this crossings who would be willing to bring it to the attention of the City. Tom will reach out to some of the parents at the Day Care on West Street to see if any would be willing to contact the City regarding this safety issue.

There is a sidewalk ramp missing on the SE corner of West and Washington.

Report on outreach to Department of Public Health and Board of Health:

As of this writing no response to John's letter.

Meeting with Public Works:

John and Monica attended a meeting with Bill Russo, Tom Nigosanti and Sgt. Godwin (Middletown PD Traffic).

John was pleased with the outcome of the meeting stating the City is onboard with many of our concerns, however, some are not a top priority. The below information was discussed at the meeting, however, most of the information was provided in a previous letter from John. Items italicized are points discussed at the meeting.

Priorities for Complete Streets November 2016

Saybrook Road Sidewalk, Crossings, and Bike Lane

Project underway with Cardinal engineering. This is a high priority, complicated, and expensive project. The goal is to install bike lanes on both sides/directions of Saybrook Road, a sidewalk on the northeast side from Tryon Street to East Main, and a pedestrian crossing light at the entrance to the Stop & Shop plaza. PW Department appears supportive of these improvements.

Newfield Street Bike Trail (Downtown to Tuttle Place) -- Survey, Route determination, easement acquisition, permits, & design

This project was assigned a low priority (#8) among the Parks Bond projects by the Public Works Commission. Because the project is over \$500,000, it requires a “building committee” to oversee. This issue may be revisited after this February, when bids are received for some other projects. Bill Russo expressed some doubt that this project could be started soon.

Amy stated 9 parcels of land on Newfield Street have been designated as Open Space and redevelopment.

CS should not lose sight of this information in light of the possibility funding may become available.

Bike Route/Share the Road Signs

Long Lane: bike lane sign/share the road signs

Millbrook Road; bike lane signs,

No objections raised, but inconclusive on outcome

Weston & Sampson:

East Ridge Road Ridge Road to Randolph Road

Ridge Road East Ridge Road to Randolph Road

There was general agreement that asphalt sidewalks need to be replaced. Tom will speak with Weston & Sampson to include these in the design. At present, sidewalks are not included in the plan.

Originally the neighbors made it very clear they did not want the trees cut down to install new sidewalks. Fearful of losing aesthetic value and shade. However, many of the trees are old and dying and should be removed.

Russell Street

Hunting Hill Road to East Main Street

This project is being designed in-house. There was general agreement there should be a sidewalk on the east side of Sumner Brook and a cross walk at the top of the hill, crossing East Main to the Stop and Shop. Sidewalk users will have to cross Russell St. at the bridge, however, because sidewalks change sides at that location.

Cardinal Engineering:

Old Mill Road

All

Vehicle lane width will be reduced to 11 feet, to allow for ample lined shoulder on both sides. A 30' road surface is planned. Bill Russo stated that neighbors there would strongly oppose a sidewalk due to maintenance responsibilities and tree removals.

(In passing, CS noted to PW that a sidewalk ramp was missing on the SE corner of West and Washington, where crossing lights were recently replaced by the CT DOT.)

Plan For Bikes On Main Street – related to Rte 9 project and merchant complaints

No discussion on this issue. Instead, proposed crosswalk “bump outs” and Route 9 redesign plans were discussed.

According to Sgt Godwin and Tom Nigosanti, the DOT recommendation of “bump outs” on Main Street would not be optimal for-bike safety: won’t improve traffic flow or allow for , change to signal pattern, large trucks will have difficulty making the turns.

Howard suggested the UCONN Transfer Center conduct a road assessment audit of Main Street. Howard will locate the information regarding the road audits to be provided to the Planning Department and Mayor Drew.

Route 9 Traffic Light eliminations proposal:

DOT is working on a revised proposal. No public meeting date set.

The following items on the agenda were not addressed:

Champion for Schools
Kids Health and Safety Day
Bike/Walk to School Day

Next meeting: Monday, January 9, 2017 7:00 PM Common Council Chambers