

COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 9, 2014

In Attendance: John Hall, Beth Emery, Howard Reid, Laura Balm, Cindi Perugini, David Sadler, Ron Krom, Deb Stanley, Kate Wolfe, Pam Frost

Community Events Calendar:

The Open Air Market at the Wadsworth Mansion on August 24th was added to the calendar.

Action Plan:

No action to be taken at this time.

Bike racks: Kid City and Russell Library:

At the previous meeting Beth reported she spoke with Geen Thazhampallath, Middletown Parking Director who suggested the committee send letters to Mayor Drew and the Director of the Library.

Also, Mayor Drew stopped by to thank the committee members for all their hard work and dedication to the Complete Streets effort and remind us he is supportive of this program. He stated it would be no problem to get bike racks for the Library and Kid City parking lots and suggested an email be sent to him regarding costs.

This is not a high priority item on the list right now, but will be closely monitored.

Bike Friendly Community application:

The application is an in depth and time consuming project, but can be completed with a lot of effort. The Committee members are anxious to embark on this project.

Beth will forward the link so that committee members can review the application and begin focusing on a strategy.

Bike/Walk Survey:

John encouraged all to contact individuals to participate in the survey. It would be beneficial if Middletown was the number 1 participating town.

Cindi will ask Pedal Power to include on their website.

Family Cycling Event: June 14, 2014

Ron reported the event is progressing well. The bike route has been approved by the Middletown Police Department and the ride will be led by police cruisers to ensure safety.

Further discussion will be held regarding items needed in the future for similar events i.e. brochures with our logo, mission statement, link to Action Plan, something engaging for the community, list of accomplishments for the public to review.

Debrief on Traffic Count: Arrigoni Bridge 5/31/14 and 6/3/14

Dave stated the data collected for the traffic count on the Arrigoni Bridge may be a bit skewed. There may have been some miscommunication regarding where to begin counting individuals. The mission was to count only pedestrians or those using non-motorized forms of transportation who actually crossed the bridge. Dave will contact volunteers to determine if they recall who actually crossed the bridge.

Mattabessett Trail Opening Ceremony:

It was determined a week day ceremony might be more accessible for dignitary's attendance. This is an opportunity for the City of Middletown to showcase this as a community event. This is a catalyst for the extension to Newfield Street and futuristically to downtown.

John will contact the Mayor for a specific date.

Woodrow Wilson School Outreach: Laura and Kate

Kate stated Principal Joe Casella will be leaving the at the end of the school year, however he believes the new principal will have similar interests regarding the safety of the students and the work the Complete Streets Committee is trying to accomplish.

At the May meeting Marco Gaylord expressed concerns regarding Woodrow Wilson and Farm Hill access to each other in case of an emergency. Students would have great difficulty traveling between the schools due to poor infrastructure. Woodrow Wilson acts as the emergency outpost for the students.

Revisit list of Outreach agencies and committees:

Cindi will locate original list and forward to John.

Presentations to other Commissions:

Upcoming event presentation: June 12, 2014 6:00 PM Recreation and Community Services, John will do a short presentation. He is encouraging anyone who is available to attend.

To date the Council workshop has not been scheduled, however John will follow up with Mayor Drew.

Connecticut Trails Days:

David stated if CS wants to sponsor a walk, hike or bike ride in 2015, we must submit our information by February 2015 for the June 2015 brochure.

Bike route in Middletown:

Discussion included River Road, Wesleyan to downtown Middletown to the riverfront. The City is in the process of assessing the riverfront area for future expansion, therefore this would be a good area for a bike route. Least expensive project for the City of Middletown. Sharrows, road signs, road markers, change the gates so pedestrians, walkers and recreational cyclists can fully utilize this area. Currently the gates by Meadow Meat are locked and do not allow a safe passage for individuals. A route to consider from the Union Street South Green area to River Road for a bike and walk route.

The railroad tracks on River Road remain in disrepair. Last year Cindi contacted Gil Smart,

State of Connecticut, Office of Rails, who informed her something would be done this spring to make the tracks safer. To date nothing has been accomplished. Cindi will continue to attempt to contact Mr. Smart.

As a note, when a presentation date is scheduled for the council, one of the topics should include the River Road project.

Wesleyan Hills/Wesleyan Multi-Use Trail Update:

The project is moving along steadily with the scope of the project being revisited for potential cost reduction.

Next meeting: July 14, 2014, 7 pm Council Chambers