

TOWN OF FARMINGTON
Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held
Thursday September 10, 2015
Engineering Division Conference Room

Attendance:

Voting Members

John Vibert (Chair) – Present
Deanne Born – Present
Neil Kelsey – Excused
John LaForest-Roys – Present
Andris Skulte – Present
C.J. Thomas - Present

Five voting members present. Quorum met.

Non-Voting Members

Matthew Blume (Town Liaison) – Present

The Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair, John Vibert, called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

Public Comment:

Ron Goralski, President of Bicycle Friendly Farmington spoke about bicycle friendly signage. A discussion took place regarding various Bicycle Friendly Community signage that has been noted throughout the area. Matt will contact the League of American Bicyclists to discuss the potential for other signs to be posted, but the League likely has standardized on this new signage. This discussion was continued under New Business item number 1.

Ron spoke about his concerns about the Farmington River Trails' crossing of Route 177. There is signage that directs users to cross at the intersection of Route 177 at New Britain Avenue, but few people do. It was noted that the Town has been requesting that the DOT allow a signed crosswalk at this location. It is our understanding that the state had been concerned that with the technology at the time, a crosswalk would not increase safety at this midblock crossing location, and the Town's requests have been denied several times. A new technology is available that has shown significant effectiveness for mid block crosswalks. This technology, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, have been recommended for installation at this location by the state as part of an intersection improvement project that is currently in the design phase.

R. Bruce Donald, President of Farmington Valley Trails Council (FVTC) spoke about the new legislation that paved the way for bicyclists to use the full travel lane. This would allow the use of the "May Use Full Lane" sub plaques on bicycle signs in town, in lieu of "Share the Road". Bruce informed the committee that the FVTC intends to donate the following items for Farmington's section of trail:

- **Reed Memorial Sign.** The Farmington Town Council has voted to rename the Farmington River Bridge, in Farmington, the Preston T. Reed Memorial Bridge in recognition of the work and achievements of FVTC founder Preston Reed. FVTC has commissioned a 3x2 sign to be posted near the Farmington River Bridge. Matt will coordinate with Bruce to find an appropriate location to erect the sign.
- **Bench at Brickyard Road.** The FVTC plans to replace an existing bench at the Brickyard Road trailhead. This bench is approaching the end of its useful life, and a replacement will be installed on the trail side of the fence, safely away from the parking area.
- **Bicycle Maintenance Station.** The FVTC plans to install a bicycle maintenance station, similar to Simsbury's "Fixit" station within the Town of Farmington. It was noted that the trailhead at Coppermine Road may be an appropriate location for this. It was also discussed that with the planned completion of the Farmington Canal

Heritage Greenway trail from Red Oak Hill Road to Northwest Drive in Plainville, another appropriate future location for a maintenance station could be the planned trailhead at Northwest Drive.

- **Water Fountain.** The FVTC plans to install a water fountain along the trail within the Town of Farmington. It was noted that Coppermine Road may be an appropriate location for this, coupled with the bicycle maintenance station.

Bruce also noted that the upcoming transportation bill includes about ten million dollars for trail and pedestrian improvement projects.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting, and was unanimously approved.

New Business:

1. Bicycle Friendly Signage.

The League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community signage was discussed, including the potential for the League to allow non-standard signs to be erected. It was noted that the current standard sign is "very busy" and is not conspicuous when posted along a busy roadside. As noted under public comment, Matt will contact the League to discuss the potential to post other "Bicycle Friendly" signs.

Potential areas to post Bicycle Friendly Community signs were discussed. It was determined that trailheads would be an appropriate location for signs, as well as the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail at the Town Line with Avon and Burlington. Appropriate town roads would include Coppermine Road, Morea Road, Cooke Street and Brickyard Road. State Roads were discussed, and Bicycle Friendly Farmington will work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to try to obtain approval to install signs at the following locations:

- Route 4 at the end of Main Street, near Perry Street
- Route 4 near the West Hartford town line
- Route 10 at the Avon town line
- Route 177 at the Avon Town line
- Route 177 at the Plainville Town line

In addition, Fienemann Road should be considered for a share the road sign at the New Britain Town Line.

2. Bike trail Maintenance.

The Bicycle Advisory Committee was advised that the portions of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and the Farmington River trail will have fencing replaced as part of regular maintenance. FVTC has been notified, there is a posting on the Town's website, and there will be notices posted on the trail kiosks within Town. While work is underway the section of trail being worked on will be closed to trail users for safety.

3. Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Project Update.

Plans for the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail project, from Red Oak Hill Road to Northwest Drive in Plainville have been developed to the 90 percent stage and are being submitted to the DOT for review. It is anticipated that construction will take place this coming spring.

Old Business:

1. Connectivity to Trail.
No update
2. Bicycle Friendly Business Designation.
Bruce Donald offered assistance in talking to businesses about applying for Bicycle Friendly Business designation. The added complexity of the new application was also discussed.
3. Complete Streets.
No update
4. Review Sharrows and Bike Routes.
New sharrow routes we discussed, including Coppermine Road. Matt will discuss this with the Traffic Review Board.

A motion was made, and unanimously accepted to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm

cc: Bicycle Advisory Committee
Paula Ray, Town Clerk
Deb Bull,
Matthew Blume, Chief of Eng. Svcs.
Bill Warner, Town Planner

Kathleen A. Eagen, Town Manager
Russell Arnold, Director of Public Works and Dev. Svcs.
Paul Melanson, Chief of Police
Dawn Grayson, Transportation Coordinator, BOE