

South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

SW Parks & Recreation Department

Attendees: Ginny Hole, Christine Kiely, Kim Nowell, Skip Bourke, Steve Wagner, Ken Sek, Roy Normen and guests Joe Kohut, Vitalij Staroverov, Gavin Boudle and Joan Boudle.

Call Meeting to order: 7:04 pm

January and February Minutes – Approved

Public Participation:

- Joe Kohut asked if there was a plan to connect the Crosstown Trail to neighborhoods and other trails. It is difficult to walk safely on Chapel Rd to reach Wapping Park. He suggested that a small bridge connecting Eagle Trail to Wapping Park would be beneficial to this neighborhood.
- Garvin and Joan Boudle had questions concerning the location of the Crosstown Trail by the Eversource power station. The proposed trail will be attached to our Park & Rec web page shortly.
- Vitalij Staroverov has experience with bike and pedestrian trails. He provided recommendations for the Crosstown Trail:
 - DOT provides free design resources on their CTDOT webpage
 - Utilize *Guidance for Multiuse Trail Pavements* developed by CT DOT
 - This will increase the longevity of the trail pavement
 - Use *Pedestrian Safety Countermeasure Guidance at Marked Uncontrolled Crosswalks*
 - Trail Safety
 - Stopping signed distance
 - Consider illumination at the trail roadway crossings
 - Utilize composite material (at a minimum). To increase durability and eliminate long-term maintenance consider using reinforced precast concrete (lasts 50-75 years)
 - Trail width if possible increase to 12th to ensure safety for all trail users and provide access to maintenance and emergency vehicles. A trail of this caliber will be associated with a linear park (similar to Farmington Canal Heritage Trail)
 - Curvature of the Trail
 - Consider including a yellow line on approaches on boardwalks and along curved sections of the trail.
 - Ensure safety for all users
 - Use Bollards to limit access to the trail with ATV etc.
 - Apply for encroachment permits at installation of crosswalks [Ellington Rd and Sullivan Ave).
 - Trail Amenities

- Consider installing park benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, composting toilets along the trail.
- Installation of trash receptacles is recommended at roadway crossings to ensure easy access for trash pickup.
- If possible there should be a way of getting to the Town Hall and Library as these are popular destination stops. This will encourage younger and senior residents to visit the Town Hall and Library more frequently while promoting health and community connectivity.
- Project of this scale and scope fall under bicycle and pedestrian improvements and is highly supported by various state agencies:
 - CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
 - CT Department of Transportation (DOT)
 - CT Department of Transportation Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTIC)
 - Connecticut Department of Transportation Community Connectivity Program (CCP)
 - Capitol Region Council of Governments (CROG)
 - Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) through OPM
 - Crowd Source – such as benches in memory of

New Business:

- **4th Grade Bike Fleet Tune-up dates:**
 - Monday, March 27, Wednesday, March 29th and Thursday, March 30th; if you can help contact Jeff Harner.
- **Spring 4th Grade Bike Safety Program** – contact Ken Sek if you are able to help
 - **Pleasant Valley School**
 - Monday, April 17th, Tuesday, April 18th, Thursday, April 20th, Friday, April 21st, Monday, April 24th and Tuesday, April 25th (rain date).
 - **Eli Terry School**
 - Tuesday, May 30th, Thursday, June 1st, Friday, June 2nd, Monday, June 5th and Tuesday, June 6th (rain date).
- **Senior Center Events**
 - The senior center will now be open on Saturday mornings and the coordinator is looking to see if SWW&WW wants to host activities. If you have an idea contact Christine.
- **Bike Budget** – place holder for next month.

- **SWW&WW webpage**
 - Ginny and Christine met with Stephanie Parker from Park & Rec.
 - She was fantastic, she had several ideas for our webpage by adding quick links under our banner
 - Programs, Upcoming Events, Crosstown Trail, Bike Rack Location/Repair Station, Master Plan, Meeting Info.
 - Include donation and bike rack cost share program buttons
 - Create a story map for the Crosstown Trail and Bike rack locations

Old Business:

- **South Windsor Crosstown Trail**
 - A HUGE thank you to Ginny for the many hours of gathering information to complete the grants for Phase 1A.
 - Senate and House bond requests were submitted
 - CT DEEP recreational grant was submitted
 - Attended the Inland & Wetland Conservation Committee meeting on February 15th.
 - Kevin Grindle provided a detailed presentation on the trail
 - Discussed impact on wildlife
 - Next meeting with Wetland is tentative for Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.
 - The Conservation Committee voted unanimously to write a letter of support for the trail. Their letter was included with the DEEP application
- **SW High School Cycling Group**
 - On Monday, March 27th Ginny, Christine, and Molly met with two high school students who want to create a teen cycling club. There are 12 students who are interested.
 - Looking for volunteers to chaperons
 - The cycle group will be an event under Park & Rec
 - Tentative dates: during Spring break April 10th through April 14th;
 - Looking to pick two days (1) Bike Safety class with a short bike ride and (2) Bike Maintenance class with a short bike ride. Tentative hours 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
 - Saturday, May 20th, ride the Charter Oak Greenway 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
 - This group is looking to expand rides during the summer months.
 - Contact either Ginny or Christine if you are interested in helping with this new event
- **Bike Rack Inventory**
 - An inventory of all the bike racks in town is planned. A list of bike rack locations will be obtained from Public Works. Volunteers are needed to

check to see if the bike racks are in the correct location. If you are able to help contact Christine.

Other Business:

Upcoming Events:

- **Saturday, March 4th – Moonlight Walk @ Nevers Park.** Kim, Ginny, and Ken will be leading the 1.5-mile Moonlight Walk through Nevers Park. Meet at 6:45pm at Rotary Pavilion, 55 Chief Ryan Way.
- **Wednesday, March 15th – Inland Wetland Commission** meeting at the Town Hall at 7:00pm discussing the Crosstown Trail. Attend if you can.
- **Monday, March 27th, Wednesday, March 29th and Thursday, March 30th - 4th Grade Bike Fleet Maintenance** – 10:00 am – 12:00pm Park & Rec, 91 Ayers Road.
- **Tuesday, March 28th – Active 55+ Adults Maintenance Class** at the senior center 10:00am to 12:00pm. Contact Jeff if you can help.
- **Tuesday, April 4th – Active 55+ Adults Bike Safety Class** at the senior center 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- **Friday, April 7th – Moonlight Walk @ Nevers Park.** Kim and Skip will lead a 1.5 Mile. Meet at 6:45pm at Rotary Pavilion, 55 Chief Ryan Way.
- **Saturday, April 8th – Adult Learn-To-Ride.** Ginny and Ken will hold a class at the old Orchard Hill School, 9:00am to 1:00pm.
- **Saturday, April 22nd – Adopt-A-Road**, celebrating Earth Day, Chapel Rd cleanup 1:00 pm. Rain date is Sunday, April 23rd.

Announcements:

- **Bike Walk CT February Newsletter 2023**
 - **Ride of Silence – Wednesday, May 17th**

Join in a worldwide silent procession to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. Last year in 2022, four cyclists were killed by drivers on Connecticut's roads in Stafford, New Haven, Waterbury, and Berlin; two of them were 15-year-old youth.

- **Bike to Work Day – Friday, May 19th**

National Bike to Work Day, BWCT will be hosting an event at the Old State House in downtown Hartford from 7:00am - 9:00am. Meet up with co-workers and bike to the event before heading to work! There will be a speaker, light refreshments, and participation from other local organizations. Stay tuned for more information!

- **Trail of the Month: Wadsworth Falls State Park**

A short ride from downtown Middletown is a 3.5-mile trail through woods that leads to two sets of waterfalls at Wadsworth Falls State Park. Located on Route 157, the trails are well-marked with plenty of signs leading you to the falls as well as other trails that go behind the falls and pond, eventually bringing you to Wadsworth Mansion.

- **The League of American Bicyclists - Newsletter**

- **2023 National Bike Summit** begins Sunday, March 26 through Wednesday, March 29 still time to register

This showcases individuals and organization revolutionizing how we approach building safer streets and a more inclusive cycling community.

Some topics When Biking Is the Only Option: A Conversation with Disabled Cyclists, Slowing Cars for Traffic Safety and Filling Your Toolbox to Build a Traffic Garden, the Summit is also your chance to take lessons learned and apply them in cities and towns across America!

- The league is also offering webinar workshops see link below
- <https://www.bikeleague.org/>

Miscellaneous:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 5th, 2023; at 7:00 pm