

South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

SW Parks & Recreation Department

Attendees: Ginny Hole, Bob Dickinson, Skip Bourke, Kim Nowell, Ken Sek, Jeff Harner and guest Jared Lewis

Call Meeting to order: 7:06 pm

Public Participation – Jared Lewis, a South Windsor resident, joined our meeting as a concerned citizen to discuss the need for Complete Streets, and how Complete Streets can be used to manage the flow of cars and bicycles in a town. He also wants to know how towns determine road speed limits. He noted that roads that exit in one town at one speed limit change to another speed limit when the road enters another town while the road itself does not change. Reducing speed limits to 25/30 mph on busier streets would benefit everyone in reducing injury and death.

June 2023 Minutes – Approved

New Business - None

Old Business:

- **SWW&WW Rules for Transactions of Business:** Approved by the Town Lawyer and PARC. At tonight's meeting a vote was taken, and the By-laws were officially accepted and adopted by SWW&WW. Positions for Vice Chairperson and Treasurer are open.
- **Sidewalk Plan:** A meeting to discuss the Sidewalk Plan is scheduled to meet prior to our monthly meeting at 6:30PM on October 4, 2023. Jeff will bring a projector. Skip will bring his computer. Ginny will reach out to Taylor Rodrigue, Project Engineer, for a pdf of the map.
- **PV School Sidewalks & Trails** – Neighbors in the Pleasant Valley School neighborhood would like sidewalks on Ellington Road and Long Hill Road between Chapel Road and Pleasant Valley Road to walk to school. Ginny contacted Kevin Vincens, Civil Engineer, for updates on those two roads. He will follow up once he receives an email from Ginny. Jeff Doolittle confirmed the path to Pleasant Valley School from Murielle Circle access will be paved. Jeff will get back to us on the status of the path to Long Hill Road from Pleasant Valley School.
- **Chapel Road – Bike Route & Greenway:** Skip shared his observations of the overgrown sidewalks along Chapel Road. He reached out to Public Works which resulted in improvements to town-owned sections. Letters from the Zoning/Blight Enforcement Officer have been issued to the privately owned sections requesting owners to cut back vegetation along the sidewalk. Skip feels there is a need to have the sidewalks examined periodically to keep the paths clear. Chapel Road is part of the Captain John Bissell Greenway. Once the trail connection from the Hartford Riverfront to the Windsor Trail is completed, maintenance on the Greenway should become a high priority.

- **South Windsor Crosstown Trail**

- **Grants** – Molly submitted the DOT Community Connectivity Grant for \$800,000 on July 20, 2023. Ginny reported that Senator Anwar resubmitted the Senate Bond for \$450,000 on August 30, 2023.
- **Plum Ridge Condo Association** – The current preferred trail route for crossing Sullivan Avenue from Priest Farm is at the signal at Ellington Road. The trail would continue north on the north side of Ellington Road and cross Plum Gulley Brook using the existing roadway box culvert. The trail would then head north along the ridge between Plum Gulley Brook and Plum Ridge Condominium Association to tie back into the Eversource utility corridor. We plan to walk this section once the ground is frozen, and the weeds die down. We'll contact the Condo Association to join us.

Other Business:

Last Month's Events Recap:

- **Thursday Evening Rides – The Thursday Evening Rides ended on August 31st.** Attendance was good, but there was a lack of new faces among the participants. It seemed that some participants came once or twice and never came again. It was suggested that next year we ask new participants how they liked the ride and what could be done better. For the last ride, we were short members, so we cancelled the ride since two people are needed to run the ride, one to lead and the other to sweep.
- **SW Teen Cycling Club Rides** – The SW Teen Cycling Club held rides on 5/13, 6/10 and 8/19 accompanied by SWW&WW members and several other adult bicyclists. The rides were well received by the teens. The teen member, Aditya Jha, will contact Molly about planning additional rides in the future and holding club meetings at Parks & Recreation.
- **Adult Fall Bike Ride - September 9th** – The Adult Fall Bike Ride was cancelled due to lack of coverage.
- **PRS Bike Program** – The first of the two Fall 4th Grade Bike Safety Classes is at Philip R Smith School. The first day of class on 9/17 was postponed to 9/18 because of rain. The last two days of class are planned for 9/21 and 9/22. Additional coverage for the last class is needed. Members from Bike Mansfield will be observing the 4th grade bike safety program. Plans are in the works to implement the program at the Mansfield elementary schools.

Upcoming Events:

- **Rye Street Park Hike - Wednesday, September 27th:** Ginny and Ken will be leading a hike through the biking/walking trails in Rye Street Park. If you are interested in helping, contact Ginny.
- **Orchard Hill Bike Safety Program:** Classes will be held on October 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 10th with a rain date of October 12th. If you are interested in helping, contact Ken.
- **Heritage Day – Saturday, September 30th:** Ginny, Jeff, Skip, Kim, Ken, and Bob will be splitting up coverage at Heritage Day which is sponsored by the South Windsor Historical Society. Heritage Day runs from 9:00am to 4:00pm and is located at 1872 Main Street. Our booth will promote SWW&WW's 4th grade

bike program and the Crosstown Trail. If you are interested in helping, contact Ginny.

Announcements: The bike trailer is missing a lock, one 16-inch coaster brake bike and a trail-a-bike with a backrest.

Miscellaneous: Ginny has SWW&WW T-shirts for \$13.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at the new SW Parks & Recreation Building (the old Orchard Hill School) at 350 Foster Street. Please meet at 6:30 PM to review sidewalk plan.