

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Emily Burnaman, Chair; Nicholas Pappas; Manny Salgado; Christine Bisceglie;
Tanner Thompson

OTHERS: James Travers, Director, TMP; Nell Blaszkiewicz; Traffic Analyst; Jaleah
Green, Norwalk Health Department; Chaz Foster

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at <http://www.norwalkct.org/meetings>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Burnaman called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Burnaman called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Smeets said he is from Larchmont, New York, and they are trying to do what the Norwalk Bike Walk Commission does. He is here to learn. He provided an overview of where they are in the process. Ms. Burnaman said the Bike/Walk Commission would be happy to collaborate.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2025, AND APRIL 7, 2025

**** MR. SALGADO MOVED TO APPROVE MARCH 3, 2025, MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2025, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MS. BISCEGLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Under the attendance, add Mr. Thompson.

**** MR. THOMPSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 7, 2025, MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** MS. BISCEGLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATES ON PREVIOUS ITEMS

This item was discussed under the strategic goals.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECAP: BIKE SAFETY PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP WITH CT STATE COLLEGE NORWALK. OVERVIEW OF THE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS, ATTENDANCE, AND FEEDBACK

Mr. Foster provided a recap of the bike safety and pedestrian workshop. He said it was well received by the participants who had attended, but he would love to get more participation. One option may be that Sound Cyclists offer the training, which they will discuss at their next board meeting. He said he has been doing presentations for other communities on e-bikes, as it is becoming noticeable that there are more e-bike accidents. He suggested making the presentations available on Zoom and hosting some as a smart cycling workshop, holding the presentations on the weekend in the morning, and a ride in the afternoon to get more participation. He also suggested using Fox Run School or CT. State College for the riding portion.

Ms. Burnaman said that Mr. Foster led the introduction to the safe cycling class at CT. State College in Norwalk on April 15, 2025, and he provided an overview of bike safety tips. Jaleah Green also attended, and she just received her League-certified instructor certification, which is what Mr. Foster suggested being made available on Zoom, so that it is acceptable to move forward, but also promote online to continue promoting education around bike safety. The other part is that while the commission tabled and waited for attendees to arrive at the State College, they met with other students who suggested having tables during the day to engage the student body further. She thanked all those who attended the safety seminar.

Ms. Burnaman said the second part is that Mr. Foster held an outdoor cycling skills workshop on April 22, 2025, at CT State College in Norwalk, which was well attended. She suggested the workshop be held for e-bike riders as well.

Ms. Burnaman said these workshops were all leading up to the Earth Day bike rides, so if there are more opportunities to prepare residents and visitors for these rides, she hopes the commission will be hosting more of them. She would love to continue doing these and hopes the commission will work more with the city to promote these types of events.

Ms. Stoll suggested publicizing the laws surrounding e-bikes and talking to local e-bike shops about ways to better inform purchasers about the liability associated with riding e-bikes. Mr. Foster said the one thing that needs to be mentioned to parents is that an e-moto is not the same as an e-bike, and they are illegal for anyone who doesn't have a license.

Mr. Travers said he loves the idea of studying the rules and regulations for e-bikes. He talked with Amy Watkins for Watch For Me CT; they have some resources available. He will contact her to see if they can create something regarding Norwalk's rules and regulations.

Ms. Bisceglie said one key factor is the bike's weight, which can be up to 70 pounds. She said she had emailed the commission about the laws around e-bikes.

Ms. Burnaman said she would like to speak with Mr. Foster about continuing bike safety workshops and thanked him for his time and efforts.

Mr. Thompson said that if the commission endorses training to raise awareness and safety for e-bikes, he suggests that in addition to helping people understand the risks of e-bikes, they also help them understand their benefits.

B. RECAP: EARTH DAY EVENT- SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND OUTCOMES.

Mr. Pappas provided a summary from the Earth Day event and said even though it rained, it was still pretty well attended and that a fair number of people stopped at the table to inquire about what the commission does. They did not have a signup sheet for the email list, so they missed an opportunity there, but they could still give those interested the website and contact information. The bike-valet service did as well as it could, considering the weather, but overall, it went well. Mr. Thompson asked how many people used the bike valet service. Mr. Pappas said approximately five. Ms. Stoll suggested having a QR code to the commission's Instagram and email at future events. Ms. Burnaman suggested turning the bikenorwalk.org and walknorwalk.org into QR codes. Mr. Salgado suggested that the commission purchase a tent for tabling events.

Mr. Travers said the walk went surprisingly well. Two QR codes were posted for the future of Wall Street. We discussed the following phases and answered many questions.

Ms. Burnaman thanked Mr. Pappas for volunteering and setting up for the event, and to all of the other commissioners who had participated.

C. BIKE TO WORK WEEK & BIKE TO WORK DAY EVENTS- UPDATE ON PROGRESS, PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CITY OF NORWALK, PUBLIC TRANSIT DISTRICT AND CT RIDES

Ms. Stoll said the commission has softly committed to partnering with Black by Demand and needs to decide how much will be allocated and at what quantities. She said she does not believe a location has been chosen to do the Tabeing, but will table on Friday, May 16th, for Bike to Workday. Ms. Roy from CT Rides said she would also table wherever the commission decides to table, and they would be happy to cross-promote. Ms. Burnaman noted that Ms. Woods and Ms. Eagle from the mayor's office has offered to help support any events for Bike to Work Week and Bike to Work Day. She said there are Transportation Tuesday posts that have recently featured TMP accomplishments and suggested that the commission collaborate to enhance the work that the commission is doing and events the commission is hosting, as well and send any information to Ms. Woods or Ms. Eagle.

Mr. Pappas said he would favor allocating \$200 coupons to Black by Demand. Mr. Thompson said he would vote to support including food for people who bike to work that day. He also suggested tabling at the South Norwalk train station from 6:30 AM to 8:00 AM. Mr. Salgado volunteered to make the coupons.

Mr. Thompson said that Sustainable Streets is also holding an event that week and will hold a bike party again on Friday evening. They would love to have as many people attend as possible.

D. UPCOMING EVENTS- E-BIKE SAFETY SEMINAR BY WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT, BIKE REPAIR CLINIC (REI/SMARTCYCLES), AND OTHER SCHEUDULED OR PROPOSED EVENTS IE. NICE FESTIVAL

Ms. Burnaman said the Westport Police Department is holding an event on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the Westport Auditorium located at 110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT. from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The event will discuss rules and regulations for bikers and motorists, e-bike safety and street awareness, safety tips, and resources for all ages. She encouraged the commissioners to attend if they are available.

Ms. Stoll said that REI will host a flat repair workshop on May 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM, a trailside bike repair workshop on May 19, 2025, and another flat repair workshop on May 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Mr. Pappas suggested contacting REI to see if they are interested in hosting a private class and if there is a budget. Ms. Bisceglie said she has spoken to them and would be interested in hosting small groups at REI if compensated.

Ms. Burnaman said that Mr. Travers had mentioned the possibility of the commission participating in the Rowayton Memorial Day parade on Sunday, May 25, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. Mr. Travers said that, with the tragedy that just took place in Rowayton, he thinks highlighting cycling there is great and suggested following up and hosting a bike clinic. Ms. Burnaman said she attended the Rowayton Memorial Day parade last year and that most attendees arrived via bike or walking so she would like to connect with that community. Mr.

Thompson asked if the commission would participate in the parade and suggested a flotilla of bicycles. Ms. Bisceglie agreed and suggested getting the kids involved.

Ms. Burnaman said the Pride in the Park event will occur on Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. Ms. Green said she attended the event last year, which is a large event with many vendors. She suggested that if the commission attends, bring a lot of materials and have them available in Spanish as well. Ms. Stoll suggested contacting the Triangle Community Center and requesting that they include biking as a suggested means to get to the event. Ms. Bisceglie said there is not a lot of bike parking at Veterans Park and suggested offering the bike valet service. Mr. Thompson agreed and said if Mr. Pappas is not available, he can run the bike valet service. Mr. Salgado said he is also available for set up and break down the bike valet.

E. SCHEDULING A MEETING WITH TMP- DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS AND DESIRED OUTCOMES FOR THE JOINT MEETING

Ms. Burnaman asked Mr. Travers if the TMP team has time to meet in the next two weeks. Mr. Travers suggested this Friday, May 9, 2025, at 11:00 AM.

F. COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY GRANT PROJECT SUBMISSION- LETTER OF SUPPOT FROM THE COMMISSION. EAST WALL STREET FROM BROOK STREET TO EAST AVENUE.

Ms. Blaszkiewicz said she has been working closely with Mr. Bolella on this project, which is the state's community connectivity grant project submission for fiscal year 2025/26. It is a streetscape project that includes connecting bike lanes into the scope of the Wall Street project that is currently being worked on. There will also be significant upgrades to sidewalks and a bike box on East Wall Street heading onto East Avenue. It would be great to get a letter of support from the commission. Mr. Thompson asked if it would include a downhill bike lane on the westbound side. Ms. Blaszkiewicz said "yes" and that bike lanes would be on both sides of the street. Ms. Stoll said she hopes the design will address the issue of the cars backing up into the bike lane on East Wall Street.

Ms. Burnaman asked if there was a deadline for the letter. Ms. Blaszkiewicz said that, if possible, she would like to have it by May 14, 2025.

**** MR. THOMPSON MOVED TO APPROVE MS. BURNAMAN TO EDIT THE FORM LETTER OF SUPPORT THAT TMP WILL SEND AND SUBMIT IT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THIS GRANT APPLICATION FOR EAST WALL STREET.**

**** MS. STOLL SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. DISCUSSION

A. QUARTERLY CHECK-IN: STRATEGIC GOALS AND BUDGET REVIEW, PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS, BUDGET SPENT TO DATE AND PROJECTIONS, AND COMMISSIONER REAPPOINTMENTS.

Ms. Burnaman presented the strategic goals and said she is happy to report that the commission has started towards the goal of six safe cycling courses and has also completed the new League Certified Instructor goal. Jaleah Green is a certified League instructor.

The commission reviewed and discussed the status of the remaining goals on the strategic plan.

The commission reviewed and discussed the fiscal year 2024/25 budget spending.

**** MR. THOMPSON MOVED TO APPROVE ALLOCATING \$65 FOR MR. PAPPAS TO ATTEND THE TRAILSIDE WORKSHOP AND MS. STOLL TO ATTEND THE BIKE REPAIR WORKSHOP AT REI.**

**** MS. BISCEGLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. THOMPSON MOVED TO APPROVE SPENDING THE REMAINING BUDGET TO PURCHASE ONE PRINTED TENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500 AND THE REMAINDER OF THE BUDGET TO BE SPENT ON AN EQUAL NUMBER OF WATER BOTTLES AND DRAWSTRING BAGS.**

**** MS. STOLL SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Burnaman noted that Mr. Thompson, Mr. Salgado, and Ms. Bisceglie are up for reappointment at the end of June. One vacancy is still open, and she has received interest in filling it. She will work with Mr. Travers to fill the vacancy. Mr. Thompson said he would not be seeking to be reappointed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. THOMPSON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. STOLL SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

