

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 7, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Tanner Thompson, Chair; Christine Bisceglie; Colin Grotheer; Jud Aley; Audrey Cozzarin; Sam Ebert

OTHERS: Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner, Theresa Argondezzi, Asst. Director of Health; Michael Yeosock, Principal Engineer, TMP; Carly Kramer, Community Planner, Redevelopment Agency; Ben Hanpeter; Evan McGee; Emily Buraman

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

1. APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING

**** MR. EBERT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** MR. GROTHEER SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **EARTH DAY EVENT ON APRIL 23RD**

Ms. Cozzarin said that last week she and Mr. Thompson met with Mr. Travers and invited him to participate in the Earth Day celebration on the green on April 23, 2022 and invited him to give opening remarks during the program, and to also lead a walking tour from the Library through Wall Street and end at the green and he sounded interested in taking on that task. She said she also spoke with Councilwoman Dominique Johnson and requested that she also join the walking tour and she said that she would love to and also suggested contacting Councilman Huevelman and Councilwoman Ayers who are the District A Common Council members to also join. She said the NRVt will also be participating in a walk that day from City Hall through Mill Hill where The Norwalk Historical Society will give a short tour and then end at the green. Mr. Thompson said he has contacted Mr. Mushak and will be leading a bike tour. Ms. Cozzarin said the bike tour will begin at SONO and end at the green and what they are trying to do is to encourage people to walk and bike to the green for the Earth Day program celebration and either leave their cars at home or at a distant site.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments this evening.

4. TMP UPDATES

- **CT. CONNECTIVITY GRANT**

Mr. Pacelli reported and said they have submitted the revised plans for the connectivity grant back to the DOT for approval and are hoping to get an approval in the next few weeks and once approved they can submit back to connectivity group with a cost estimate and begin the bid process which will open the city up for additional rounds of funding for the connectivity grant. He said there is a strong possibility that the DOT will be repaving a good length of RT. 136 this year so will need to coordinate with them when implementing the changes on Rt. 136 and various roadways in the area. Mr. Thompson said it seems like the plan has gone back and forth with the DOT and asked if this will be the last time he anticipates them having to review it before it is approved. Mr. Pacelli said that he is hoping so and usually their review process is a standard four to six weeks and are hoping this last submittal will not take as long as the previous one. Mr. Aley noted that he noticed in Westport today their first bicycle infrastructure which was a short stretch on street on Riverside Avenue with sharrows on it.

5. BUDGET DISCUSSION

- **EVENT SWAG**
- **BIKE RACKS**
- **LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS' MEMBERSHIP & SUMMIT**
- **NRVT GRANT OPENING EVENT COSTS**

Mr. Thompson said at the last meeting the committee discussed on how to use the budget and some concrete proposals were submitted. There was discussion ensued regarding the proposals and the committee agreed on the following budget items:

League of American Bicyclists membership \$75.00
National Bike Summit ticket \$70.00
NRVT grand opening costs \$1,500.00
Swag for events \$592.00
Water Bottles \$792.00
Draw String Bag \$150.00
Meeting Minutes \$2,400.00
Bike Education Materials \$300.00
Single staple racks \$1,992.00

Total- \$7871.00

Mr. Grotheer said in addition to the bike racks he recommended including some yield to pedestrian signs on an annual basis. Mr. Thompson said that is a great idea and they have been purchased in the past and given to the schools but have still not been installed and asked Mr. Pacelli for an update. Mr. Pacelli said the last time he spoke with them they were waiting for the weather to improve, and he will follow up with again to see what their plan is going forward. Mr. Thompson requested that Mr. Grotheer begin to work on the locations for the pedestrian signs.

**** MR. ALEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET SPENDING AS PRESENTED.**

**** MR. EBERT SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Bisceglie said she needs some help to plan events for bike month and suggested focusing on a few events such as the bike clinic, the bus/bike demonstration as well as bike safety. She would like to have a scavenger hunt with all of the bike racks and provided an overview of the event. Ms. Buraman said she would like to help promote these events in any way she can. Mr. Thompson asked that Ms. Bisceglie schedule a focus group meeting to keep these items moving forward.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ebert left the meeting at 7:10PM.

6. REPAVING & RESTRIPING INPUT

Mr. Aley said in the past months the commission has spoken about getting notified from Mr. Pacelli or a staff member from DPW on what the plans are for paving so that the commission can provide input. Mr. Pacelli said he spoke with Mr. Thompson about this last week and came up with a plan and TMP is working alongside with DPW staff on the paving and anywhere they can take advantage of areas where bike lanes can be installed they will, and the goal is to use every inch of the roadway they can without having to move the curb. He said on the paving schedule this year is West Avenue from Butler Street to Mott Avenue and TMP staff took some cross sections of the roadway every 50'-100' and the plan is to put a conceptional design together for striping and will see if they can build upon the bike lanes that already exist on Belden Avenue and continue it south going on West Avenue. Mr. Aley requested that when they are in the planning stages to let the commission know so that they can discuss it and requested that a list of roads that they are looking at for restriping be included on the agenda. Mr. Grotheer suggested it be in two categories, one for the roads that TMP have looked at and the other for the roads they are intending to look at in the near future. Mr. Grotheer asked what the current minimum width of the roadway is. Mr. Pacelli said 10' where allowed. Mr. McGee asked if any consideration is given to raising awareness to vehicle drivers because in his experience the greatest danger on the road is uninformed drivers. Mr. Aley said there are postcards with some information and asked Mr. McGee to forward his contact information to him and he would send him some. Mr. Grotheer said they also post on social media.

Mr. Hanpeter asked if there has been a scope identified for doing road diets when roads are being repaved. Mr. Pacelli said they always look to see what would make the road safest for every mode of transportation but are always open to road diets if the road allows it. Mr. Hanpeter suggested that on Calf Pasture Beach Road by Marvin School seems like a good location for a road diet. Mr. Pacelli said that is an area that is on the list to look at potential areas to be studied for improvement.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GROTHEER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MS. BISCEGLIE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd