

Bike & Trails Committee Meeting
September 18, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
Conference Room

Town Hall South, 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT

MINUTES

Brid Craddock, David Siroky, Geordie Elkins, Ken Kerin, Chaz Foster, Gavin Arneth, Mark Lurie, Susan Smith and two member of the public.

CALL TO ORDER 7:05

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of July 17, 2019 and June 19, 2019 meetings

Gavin Arneth motioned, and Chaz Foster seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2019 and July 17, 2019 meetings as submitted. PASSED unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- October Al's Trail walk - we will put on hold until spring.
- Trail and Marking Standards- Ideally, we would like to develop trail construction, maintenance, and marking standards. Currently the town is using yellow plastic trail markers. Paula will help look for regulations and specification that other towns are using and share them with Brid.
- Ken Kerin suggested it would be helpful to see if we can find a Scout interested in constructing a bridge on Al's Trail. We have not heard back from previous scout inquiries to the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- Susan Smith of Bike Walk CT (BWC) joined the meeting to talk about bike and pedestrian opportunities for Newtown. The BWC mission is focused on advocacy (lobby to pass laws, educating public on laws, and enforcement) and education. BWC has an advisory committee from around the state to help guide advocacy. They sponsor the LCI League Cycling Instructor training. Participants are trained to teach structured bike education programs and safety clinics. BWC also helps towns work to obtain a Bike Friendly Community (BFC) award. New Milford and Canton are both seeking awards now. Both communities are currently taking public comments on the award proposals. Bike enthusiasts are encouraged to register their support. Brid asked if there a short list of state regulations on bike and trail building? The statues are scattered. Susan will send us info she has. DOT has some rules, but there is not a bike/ped person on staff at DOT.

BWC partners with towns to host educational event. They do about three per year. There is about one-year lead time to plan an educational event. One is already scheduled in Danbury in the spring of 2020 for children of ages 4-13.

Another program they have is Discover Connecticut ride to showcase BFC. 10-50 mile bike rides. It is a program to introduce people to the town. Between 100-150 attend, but they will take more. They try to do two community events per year. They would like it to increase it to three. The events make money and the proceeds can be used for bike/ped programs in that town. BWC encourages residents from around CT to attend the National Bike Summit. It ends with a lobby day in DC with the CT congressional delegation. October 17th at Goodwin College there is a screening of Mother Load- a bike documentary on people who gave up their cars and started using bike only transportation.

- There is an interest in talking to the Fairfield Hills Authority about closing the section of Keating Farms Road between the parking lot and the circle at the beginning of the bike trail.

Gavin Arneith motioned, and Ken Kerin seconded a motion to close. PASSED

ADJOURNMENT 8:45 p.m.

Geordie Elkins, Secretary