

Weston bicycle and Pedestrian Commission

Wednesday May 4th, 2011 Weston town Hall Commission Room

Members Present: Louise Hastings, Ray Rauth (Chairman), Julie Sidhu (Recording) **Absent :**Jon Howell

Meeting was called to order by chairman Rauth at 12:31p.m

Pro Forma Matters:

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Louise Hastings, seconded by Julie Sidhu

Approval of February minutes: Moved by Louise Hastings, seconded by Julie Sidhu

Chairman's Remarks: Chairman noted that as Louise had to leave early any votes had to be made before that in order to have a quorum.

Commission Reports:

School Road Closure: Louise reported that a proposal had been submitted to Les Wolff, Board of Education. Mr. Wolff deemed the proposal to close the full length of School Road unworkable due to the heavy use of fields during the summer. Ms. Hastings revised the proposal and submitted a plan whereby School Road would be closed only as far as the Weston High School, beginning at Weston Road and including the W.I.S. loop road. Julie Sidhu said that the closing in late August many years ago was successful and that in August most leagues/camps are finished and school team practices are yet to begin. She suggested also contacting Dave Ungar of Parks and Recreation regarding the scheduling of field use during that period of summer 2011.

SRTS: Louise reported on **Safe Routes to School:** Grant application is awaiting results of proposal.

Education: Julie reported that she had spoken with Kimberly Kus regarding bicycle/pedestrian education in the school curriculum. Ms. Kus said this is covered in elementary school, but not in W.I.S or High School presently. Ms. Kus put this before the health/P.E faculty who were in favor of such a program. Over the summer Julie will work on an educational program to be shared with Ms. Kus and B.O. E in the fall. If approved the commission thought it would be appropriate to share with students during the spring of 2012. Mr. Rauth reminded Ms. Sidhu that all information regarding the schools must first be approved by Selectman Gail Weinstein and then the B. O.E. Ms. Sidhu said that the discussions with Ms. Kus so far were informal, fact finding e-mails and until the content of such an education program was outlined there was nothing concrete to be approved. Ms. Sidhu will send a letter to B.O.S expressing interest in proposing an education program for the school and will work on the outline over the summer.

Julie also mentioned finding out which driving school/schools offer lessons either through the school, and/or locally to Weston students and seeing what they cover regarding bicycle/pedestrian. As well as

making them aware that Weston takes this aspect of driver education seriously. Mr. Rauth pointed out that the new Connecticut State Driving Handbook contains a new section on Bike/pedestrian laws and safety.

New Members: Ray noted that the resignation of two early members was recorded in the Weston Forum. Louise offered names of two people interested in joining the commission. Ray suggested inviting them to attend the next meeting so they can see what the commission is about and also instruct them of the correct channels of application.

Signage: Ray Rauth reported on significant progress re “Share The Road” signage on Weston State Roads. The Police Commission wants to cut down the proposed number of signs from 8 to 6. Discussion on which signs to be eliminated ensued. The new proposal will go before the Board of Selectman and then to the State Department of Transportation. Note: Signs will be placed, if approved, on existing signs, thus not changing the landscape or increasing signage in Weston.

Community Awareness: Louise reminded the group that Kimberly Donnelly of the Weston Forum was more than happy to cover notable progress of the Commission. If, and when the “Share the Road” signage happens, it was suggested that we let Ms. Donnelly know. Ray also mentioned that the library notice board has space in which to post Bike/Pedi news.

Memorial Day Fair: Julie suggested that in order to raise community awareness of bike/Pedestrian safety that members of the commission should walk in the Memorial Day Parade. Julie will look into this and contact Lyette Segerdahl, Parade Director. Louise noted she will be away Memorial Day weekend. Ray will talk with Jon Howell regarding availability.

Special Meeting: Due to member prior commitments it was decided to cancel the June meeting and hold a special meeting in lieu of this on May 25th. Ray proposed this motion which was approved by Julie and Louise.

Simsbury Visit: Ray Rauth attended a meeting of the East Coast Greenway Council. The meeting was held in **Simsbury**. It was noted that Simsbury is Connecticut’s only recognized Bike Friendly Community according to the League of American Bicyclists.

Ray has invited members of the committee and will invite town officials to join him in a trip to Simsbury to meet with Simsbury town officials who have offered a presentation regarding Bike/Ped programs in the town and attaining this status for Weston. Julie expressed interest in making this trip as education is a key piece of gaining the nomination.

Bisceglie Park: Julie reported that a basic spring cleaning of Bisceglie Park had been done and that Dave Ungar, Director of Parks and Recreation, is awaiting a bid on re routing the latter part of the fitness trail from the steep embankment to the lower flatter area behind the Historic Post Office. A new sign to be placed at the entrance to the park indicating the start and presence of the fitness trail is also being worked on by Mr. Ungar’s department.

Meeting adjourned 1: 35p.m