

Weston Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Wednesday, August 8th, 2012 Weston Town Hall Commission Room

Members Present: Ray Rauth (Chairman), Louise Hastings, Julie Sidhu (recording) Gayle Weinstein, Bernie Parks, Ken Liebeskind (Guest-Reporter for Weston Patch)

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rauth at 9 40 a.m.

Chairman's Remarks:

Ray brought our attention to the AASTO Handbook as a good resource. Julie has added link to our website.

Ray noted that the travel lanes on Routes 53/57 had been reduced from 12 to 11 feet in places to allow for a wider shoulder as per new CT. State ruling allows. This is good news for bikers and runners/walkers and hopefully might also have the added benefit of slowing traffic down through town.

Safety: Ray reminded us all to alert someone as to where we are walking and when we will be expected back if we walk the trails alone. Ray had a recent fall and was glad that his wife knew where he was in the event of an emergency. Happily, Ray is just fine, albeit a little battered and bruised!

Approval of Agenda: Motioned by Louise, Seconded by Ray

Approval of July Minutes: motioned by Ray, Seconded by Julie

Gayle Weinstein reported that she had spoken to members of the sports commission who will organize informal games for our BiG Bike/Pedi Event in September. Different clubs and teams will participate as we host this day to promote a healthy, active lifestyle. Gayle said that in future years she would like to expand the scope of the day to make it "Weston" Day. We all agreed that inviting other groups and committees in town to participate would be helpful in reaching a larger number of Weston citizens.

School/Walkable Village Loop

Gayle noted that although Weston was not approved for the Safe routes To School grant, there were other avenues that the town could consider. The proposal however, must come from the school and Dr. Palmer will be forming a committee. The grant, Main Street Investment Act, if approved, would be used to create sidewalks along School road to the town center, potentially extending all the way to Town Hall and Weston Library complex, perhaps even as far as Norfield Church.

All agreed that Wilton Town Center is a fine example of a walkable community with a sidewalk that extends from the town center all the way up route seven to the High School.

Bernie queried whether the proximity of the Senior Center to the town center would make the organization qualify for grants. Gayle said they qualified for some grants, but not for this initiative. Discussion then turned to how we might attract the more active seniors in town to use the center. It is

hoped by inviting the Senior Center to host a table at the Bike/Pedi Event that more seniors who come out to walk or cycle might consider joining.

Gayle said that one of the goals she has set for the Parks and Recreation Department this year was to offer more adult programs. Weston does a great job of offering youth programs and activities for the more sedentary seniors, but offered little for the active adult. Julie noted that once your children leave the school system then the town can be very isolating. Ray said that a P & Z town Plan from several years ago also noted the lack of community. All agreed the library does a wonderful job of offering programming for all ages including the luncheon discussions and book clubs.

Big Bike Pedi Event:

Louise will design poster/Flyer and send to members for input. A press release will be sent closer to the date.

Julie suggested we might offer a one mile timed race. Julie and Ray measured the proposed closed portion of School road and it came out to be a 1.6 mile loop.

Coverage for the event is as follows: Jan, Alycia and Bernie will be there at 11-11:30 to set up. Julie and Louise will get there as soon as possible, but stay until the end. Ray will be there with volunteers from Sound Cyclist Bicycle Club volunteers.

Cycle Dynamics of Westport will host a free Technical Tent.

All members will collect flyers for possible distribution, particularly age appropriate safety information.

Ken Liebeskind, reporter for Weston Patch asked for specific details regarding the event to be reported online.

Meeting Adjourned 10:50a.m.

Next Meeting: Dedicated to Bike/Pedi Event Planning on Friday August 31st 9:30 a.m