

**Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee
To the Darien, Connecticut, Board of Selectmen**

Draft Minutes

Date: September 8, 2015

Place: Darien Town Hall, Room 119-B

Present: Terry Duffy, Joanna Garrett, Susanne Handler, Beth Harmon, Ted Hawkins, Jennifer Morgan, Pat Morrissey, Holly Schulz-Amatruda, and Bert von Stuelpnagel

This was a regular meeting of the Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee (PIAC).

Chair Beth Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The minutes from the meeting of September 1st were approved as drafted.

The committee reviewed Pat's draft Vision and Goals statement for the PIAC. A few revisions were made to the statement. There followed a wide ranging discussion of what our work product or deliverables might look like given the short amount of time remaining before year-end. We have 11 weeks to complete the charge given us by the Selectmen. Some members thought that we should have two documents reflecting the need for separate input to 1.) the Selectmen's budget and 2.) the new Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Timing of these two processes was discussed. Others thought that we should have two documents reflecting 1.) our short term goals and 2.) our long term goals. Holly sees us making a greater contribution by focusing attention on the process by which pedestrian and bike infrastructure improvements are made. We should address the current structure of decision making about roads in town. Joanna questioned how we would be able to set priorities for the various projects that we may recommend that the town pursue to improve pedestrian safety and walkability. Jenn reminded the committee that safety and health concerns should remain paramount in our thinking.

While there are many impediments (budget, rules & regs, control by DOT, physical limitations, for example) to making improvements we were cautioned not to assume that it is impossible to make changes. Clearly some other towns facing the same restrictions have been able to make their towns more walking and bike friendly.

A number of committee members had reviewed the recently released PODC Module 6 – Possible Infrastructure Strategies for Darien - prepared by Planimetrics' Glenn Chalder which was being discussed this evening before the P&Z Commission. Members were in agreement with the pedestrian and bicycle strategies suggested in the report. The only item that needed modification was that schools should be added to the train station and business district as priorities for sidewalks. Several member including the Chair and Vice Chair were going to the P&Z meeting to listen and provide comment.

The committee reviewed the hotspot audit process and agreed that at our September 22nd meeting we would begin having members make presentations on their findings. Presenter schedules are as follows:

Sept	15	Board of Education	
	22	DHS & MMS Hotspot Findings	
	29	Sound Cyclists	
Oct	6	5 Elementary Schools Hotspot Findings	
	13	Darien & Noroton Train Station Hotspot Findings	
	20	3 Other Train Stations Hotspot Findings	
	27	Maps to Jeremy	

Regarding outreach, Bert thinks it is important to get the message out to the public that PIAC exists and that the committee would welcome ideas and concerns from the community. Pat suggested that a letter to the editor in the local papers could be helpful. Bert volunteered to prepare a letter and bring it to the meeting next week. We also discussed setting up a survey on line to take the pulse of the community on pedestrian & bike matters. Holly had previously prepared one using SurveyMonkey.com that was never used. She will be circulating her draft survey questions via email for updating and comment at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05

Respectfully submitted by Ted Hawkins, Clerk