

Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee to the Darien, Connecticut, Board of Selectmen

Draft Minutes

Date: November 24, 2015

Present: Terry Duffy, Joanna Garrett, Susanne Handler, Elizabeth Harmon, Ted Hawkins, Pat Morrissey & Bert von Stuelpnagel.

Absent: Jennifer Morgan and Holly Schulz-Amatruda

This was the 18th regular meeting of the Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee (PIAC) since its formation on June 30.

Chair, Beth Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

The committee returned to a discussion regarding the process and format for the PIAC's final report to the Selectmen. Beth mentioned that the First Selectman has scheduled our presentation to be at their regularly scheduled meeting of December 14th. We should have between 30 to 45 minutes in which to present our findings, certainly no more so we'll have to cover a lot of ground quickly. It was suggested that we invite each of our guest speakers to be present if they would like.

The committee reviewed Report #1 which includes the Preamble, Approach and Summary of Key Findings. A discussion ensued on how to address the lack of institutional responsibility in Darien for pedestrian and bicycle issues which is a key idea for process improvement. Several recommendations were vetted. Comparisons were made to New Canaan's recent and notable improvements making that town much more pedestrian friendly. We looked at the difference in public works department budget line items between the two towns. It was suggested that if you can't see in it the budget, you can't address it and improve it. Ted recommended a greater emphasis in the report on the need for a Complete Streets Ordinance for Darien.

Bert and Beth reviewed for the Committee the presentation made to the Selectman by the Alta Planning & Design Consultants at David Genovese's request. Since much of their initial work appears to duplicate work already done by the PIAC the sense of the meeting was to suggest holding off a decision to employ these consultants until after the Selectmen have had a chance to review our report. The Committee applauds David's efforts to improve the walkability and bike friendliness of Darien. While the credentials and expertise of the consultants could be of great value for the implementation phase, the Committee did not see that the projects that they had worked on bore a close resemblance to the infrastructure issues in Darien.

At the meeting next week will review a few possible cost estimates, the collected bullet point priorities from each Hot Spot report and focus on the delivery of our reports.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted by Ted Hawkins, Clerk