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Minutes

December 9, 2019

Attendees: Jeffrey Stein, Dan Sharp, Ronald Degray, Deb Dauphinais, Mark McCall and Allen Friedrich (acting as Secretary in the absence of Dennis Desmarais).

1. Town update:

A. Jeff Stein reported on the 11/14/19 Bike Advisory Group meeting. The Town is modifying the T- intersection of Main Street and Hebron Avenue to make it safer to cross from the west side of Main Street to the east side. They are reducing the distance that pedestrians must cross, by extending the sidewalk further into the street. This will also allow drivers to see the pedestrians earlier as they enter the crosswalk.

B. The contracts for the new trail from House Street to Western Blvd. have been signed and construction will begin the spring, although some brush removal will be done sooner if weather allows.

C. Glastonbury Boulevard is going to be repaved and new crosswalks and traffic control implemented.

D. On January 28, 2020, at the Town Council meeting, a presentation will be made on the Road Safety Audit of the House Street to Riverfront Community Center corridor’s short- and intermediate-term recommendations proposed for next year’s budget. Allen will attend to make a public comment. We are urging member attendance to show support the project.

E. The Cyclecross program at the High School needs a coach to go forward.

F. The elementary school bike program has been rescheduled for April, 2020. After the meeting the Parks and Recreation Department requested that Bike/Walk Glastonbury contribute to the $600.00 charged by Bike/Walk Connecticut for staff and equipment. Motion made and seconded to contribute the entire $600.00. Passed 5-0.

1. The Sustainability Fair was held on 09/14/19 and our booth was staffed by Dan Sharp, Ron Degray and Allen Friedrich. They were joined by an electric bicycle exhibit that drew a lot of attention from residents who live in the hillier sections of Glastonbury. Rain in the early afternoon shortened the Fair.
2. Potential New Projects
3. Mark McCall made a presentation on a mountain bike park facility that allows riders, both adults and children to learn how to navigate mountain bike trails in a gradual manner from beginner to expert. Each skill area on the trail gives the rider the option to choose the level of difficulty as they proceed through the trail. As they increase their skills, they can move to higher level of difficulty. The example presented in the film was built in Ohio, mostly by volunteers. They have continuously expanded the trail each year. Mark suggested we could use some of the land purchased by the town and local scouts assist in developing and construction of the project. Also involving NIMBA would be important to gain local support. NIMBA member Alan Tinti should contacted. Jeff and Mark will be pursuing the project with the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. Helmet Donation. Deb Dauphinais has done this before. She had purchased the helmets, contacted the Youth and Family Services agency in town to identify recipients. Motion made to donate $500.00 for the purchase of the helmets from Bike/Walk Glastonbury funds. Passed 6-0. Deb will follow-up.
5. Safety Program: Town shared pedestrian and bicycle accident and death statistics for the state and Glastonbury since 2015. Also a survey was done to identify safety hazards in Glastonbury. The top three hazards cited were:
6. Unsafe maneuvers
7. Speeding
8. Distracted driving

Allen and Wendy Mis (Health Dept.) will work together to develop the Safety Program. Two suggestions from the floor were to check on what towns have a successful program and apply it to ours. The town has installed pedestrian crossing signs with flashing lights in some locations with some limited success. Most drivers are not familiar with the signs and some drive through the occupied crossing.

1. Discussion of recruiting members was postponed to the end of the meeting.
2. Ongoing Projects
3. Bike Friendly Facilities. This program identifies locations that have bike racks, water source for refilling water bottles and rest room facilities available to the public. There should be a decal to be posted, so bicyclists can identify the facility. Problem is that most locations that have the potential to be a bike friendly facility are not owned by the occupant, but an absentee landlord. Deb and Mark will follow-up.
4. Trail Gift: Eileen Bartley has been coordinating, but the new trail won’t be completed until the Fall, 2020, so we have time to decide what we will donate and how we will funded it. We need to decide what accessory(s) we want to donate. We can use our own funds or set up a matching funding with Sustainable CT Match Fund. Matching funding will require donations from 20 individuals.
5. Treasurer’s Report.

Dan Sharp presented the Balance Sheet as of 12//9/2019. The Checking Account balance is $585.47 and the Money Market balance is $6,347.58. Total Balance is $6,933.05.

1. Housekeeping
2. The Non-Profit Summit will be held on 01/13/20 from 7 – 8:30 PM at the South Congregational Church. This is a meeting of the various organizations and not a public event. Two representatives from Bike/Walk Glastonbury have been requested.
3. The Multi-Modal Transit Summit was held on 11/25-26/19 in New Haven.
4. Web Site: Jeff led a discussion about whether to renew or close our web site. Mark offered to set up the web site through Google. Hosting will renew in March. Dan moved to fund the domain name for $17.99. Motion seconded and approved 6 – 0. After the meeting, it was determined that web hosting could be free.
5. Jeff led a discussion about how to build membership. The 7 PM meeting time on the 2nd Monday does not seem to be the problem. Speakers may help. Need more publicity.
6. Jeff asked about the membership in the Glastonbury Conservation Commission. It will be changed, but the new member has not been determined. Bike/Walk Glastonbury members do monitor the town commissions and boards.

Dan Sharp – Economic Development

Deb Dauphinais – Town Planning and Zoning

Jeff Stein – Town Council

Ron DeGray – Town Beautification

Ron DeGray – Education

Ron DeGray – Aging

Eileen Bartley – Recreation

Allen Friedrich – Conservation

By Laws: 13 years since revised. Dan and Jeff will review.

Motion to Adjourned: Dan Sharp. Motion seconded by Allen Friedrich