

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
Bicycle Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting Held  
Thursday April 14, 2016  
Engineering Conference Room**

**Attendance:**

**Voting Members**

John Vibert (Chair) – Present  
Deanne Born – Present  
Neil Kelsey – Present  
John LaForest-Roys – Present  
Andris Skulte – Present  
C.J. Thomas - Present

**Six voting members present. Quorum met.**

**Non-Voting Members**

Matthew Blume (Town Liaison) – Present

The Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair, John Vibert, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Bruce Donald, President of the Farmington Valley Trails Council (FVTC) spoke about the following items:

- FVTC has a fix-it station and water fountain for the Town of Farmington.
- FVTC is working with towns regarding trail etiquette. In the coming years e-bikes will become more prevalent and with their “high speed potential” FVTC is recommending towns consider a trail etiquette based ordinance or policy that would include trail speed limits.
- FVTC is recommending that centerline markings be installed along the trails, but due to several disadvantages understands that this may not be desirable. FVTC would like at least 25 to 30 feet at intersections be painted in lieu of painting the entire trail.
- Sunday is the FVTC trail-wide cleanup day. Farmington’s staging areas will be the Brickyard Road trailhead and the trailhead along Route 4 west of River Road. A notice will be posted on the Town’s website.

Bicycle Friendly Farmington (BFF) noted that Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> is bike to school day. BFF is working with the school to potentially host a bike to Union School event, utilizing 1.5 miles of the Farmington River Trail. The intention would be for all participants to meet at a designated location and ride into school together. Bike to School Day and Bike to Work Day will be advertised on the Town’s website.

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting, and was unanimously approved with the following addition after the last sentence:

A motion was made, and unanimously accepted to adjourn at 7:43 pm.

**New Business:**

1. Bicycle Projects Update:

Ongoing projects were discussed, including the progress on the Farmington Canal Heritage Greenway project. Bids are scheduled to be received on April 20, 2016.

Replacement of Sidewalks along Plainville Avenue in Unionville is scheduled to begin this coming week.

2. Review Survey Questions:

Advancement of the town-wide bicycle survey was discussed. It was agreed that an open ended question be added to the survey, stating, "I would ride my bike if..."

Once completed, the survey will be distributed to the public electronically through postings to the Town's website, BFF's Facebook page, FVTC's listserv with Farmington/Unionville zip codes, and with approvals, the everbridge system.

3. Connectivity to the Trail:

The proposed signage program from the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to the High School, Library, and Little League fields was discussed. The plan will require approval from the Town's Traffic Review Board, which will be discussed at their next meeting.

It was noted that Bicycle Friendly Farmington's Douglas Gerlach, a League of American Cyclists instructor, hosted a "Secret Bikeways of Farmington" class through the Farmington Continuing Education program.

**Old Business:**

1. Bicycle Friendly Signage:

Locations for Bicycle Friendly Community Signage has been determined for most town-owned roadways crossing town lines. The highway department will be installing the signs shortly.

2. Review Sharrows and Bike Routes:

The Town is currently working with New Britain to determine if a suitable route exists to connect New Britain to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail.

Share the Road signage will be installed in the coming days on Coppermine Road just east of Route 177 and Red Oak Hill Road just west of New Britain Avenue.

A request will be made to the Traffic Review Board to have a share the road sign installed on Fienemann Road just north of the New Britain Town Line to complete the Batterson Park loop.

A discussion took place about installing sharrows on local roadways, including Garden Street and Woodruff Road. Appropriate road widths were discussed, specifically that the roadway should be adequately wide for a car to pass a bicyclist without significantly encroaching into opposing lanes of traffic.

3. Complete Streets

Bill Warner is currently working on researching complete streets policies from other municipalities to draft a policy for Farmington. It is expected that a plan will be drafted prior to the Bike Committee's next meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

The Bicycle Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on June 9, 2016.

A motion was made, and unanimously accepted to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

cc: Bicycle Advisory Committee  
Paula Ray, Town Clerk  
Deb Bull,  
Matthew Blume, Chief of Eng. Svcs.  
Bill Warner, Town Planner

Kathleen A. Eagen, Town Manager  
Russell Arnold, Director of Public Works and Dev. Svcs.  
Paul Melanson, Chief of Police  
Dawn Grayson, Transportation Coordinator, BOE