

**City of Norwalk**  
**Norwalk Bike/Walk Taskforce**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 5, 2016, 6:00pm**  
**Health Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Library**  
**137 East Avenue, Norwalk CT 06851**

**Attendees:** Mike Mushak, Peter Libre, Tim Callahan, Nancy Rosett, Gunnar Waldman, Kevin Kane, Kaitlin Latham, Tilly Hatcher

1. The June 6, 2016 minutes were approved unanimously.
2. The Taskforce discussed the status of various paving projects, most notably Calf Pasture Beach Road and Water Street. Calf Pasture Beach Road will be striped this week with 10' driving lanes (4 total) and 4' marked bike lanes. The Taskforce recommends 10' travel lanes and 4' marked bike lanes on Water Street, noting that the approved Washington Village plans include bike lanes on both sides of the street. Nancy Rosett will speak with Bruce Chimento about this paving project.
3. Nancy Rosett submitted a letter to The Hour on June 21 in response to the pedestrian fatality on Newtown Ave, but it has yet to be published. She plans to send the letter to Nancy on Norwalk.
4. The Taskforce is requesting that the Norwalk Traffic Authority asks the Connecticut Department of Transportation to mark portions of Route 136 that are included in our proposed East/West bike route with sharrows. This request is on the Traffic Authority's meeting agenda for July 18 and will be discussed at that time. Nancy Rosett plans to attend and invites all Taskforce members to join her.
5. The following statement from Jim Carter regarding the NRVT was read aloud: "We have encountered some logistical problems getting around the Casatelli Tile property. Our work-around has not been well received by Casatelli, so we continue to work on solutions. This is what triggered the additional \$13K request of City Council for further design work reported by Jud [Aley] (which was approved). Our new target is now Sept for public hearings; we will need everyone's support then."
6. Jonathan McMenamin-Balano received approval for Norwalk Community College design students to partake in a contest to design a logo for the Taskforce during the fall semester.
7. Jonathan McMenamin-Balano was denied funding for a cycling program at Norwalk Community College.
8. Kaitlin Latham submitted the City's application for Mayor's Challenge awards on June 28. If chosen for an award, the Taskforce will be notified in late August and members will be invited to the Mayor's Challenge conference in Washington DC in September.
9. The State purchased 2 years' worth of Strava Data, and Norwalk would like to obtain area-specific data to determine the impact of improved bicycle facilities throughout the City. The State is also working on a bike/pedestrian plan for Connecticut and Norwalk has been invited to

participate and provide input/local data. On July 14, Taskforce members will attend a meeting at the CTDOT and plan to discuss the following:

- a. Norwalk's master bike/ped plan
- b. Norwalk will offer to sift through the area's Strava data
- c. 10' driving lanes as a standard practice, and if there is 4'+ left, stripe it as a bike lane

Kevin Kane will circulate an email to the entire Taskforce asking for further input prior to the July 14 meeting.

10. Nancy Rosett, Colin Grotheer, Mike Mushak, Kaitlin Latham and Jud Aley met with Mayor Rilling and Bruce Chimento in June. Overall, the meeting was positive and an open discussion of various issues that all parties have encountered over the past two years. The Taskforce left with the following messages:
  - a. Mayor Rilling is supportive of the Taskforce and the work it's doing to ensure the safety of all road users.
  - b. The Taskforce should look into becoming a board, commission, etc. to ensure it remains active past Mayor Rilling's time as Mayor.

11. Kaitlin Latham, Tim Callahan, and Nancy Rosett met with Matt Sapienza of Corporation Council to discuss the process of writing a Complete Streets ordinance. Norwalk will use West Hartford's Complete Streets policy as a model and write a draft, which will then be reviewed by Matt Sapienza and Brian McCann. Once reviewed, it will be shared with Mayor Rilling and Bruce Chimento for feedback, and then shared with the Common Council for consideration.

Tim Callahan, Nancy Rosett, Peter Libre, Kevin Kane, and Gunnar Waldman agreed to work on the ordinance, meeting approximately once every two weeks until completed. These meetings will be conducted in person or via the Health Department's conference line/online meeting.

12. The Taskforce discussed the proposed plans for the Westport Avenue/Strawberry Hill intersection. The Taskforce does not support the plan as-is, and states that the following changes would make this intersection safer for all road and sidewalk users:
  - a. Narrow the driving lanes from 11' to 10' - 10'6"
  - b. Narrow the turning lanes from 14' to 10'
  - c. Expand the shoulders, eventually marking them as bike lanes

It was noted that DOT neglected to address bicycle accommodations in their plan, despite it being required. The Taskforce plans to address the fact that Norwalk's roads do not comply with the Complete Streets Law, passed in Connecticut in 2009. Mike Mushak plans to write a formal letter to DOT addressing these issues, and will circulate it the Mayor, Bruce Chimento, James Redeker, Bob Duff, Gail Lavielle, and various state representatives. Nancy will send this same letter to Fairfield and Stamford bike/pedestrian advocacy groups to see if they are experiencing the same issues in their towns.

13. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.