

THE BOROUGH OF BANTAM PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 416

BANTAM 06750

INCORPORATED 1915

MINUTES
August 6, 2024
PUBLIC HEARING
Bantam Borough Town Hall
6:30 p.m.

Present: Adam Yarrish, Chairman
Pete Donohue, Vice Chairman
John Buonaiuto
Sally Tornow

Chairman Yarrish called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Yarrish opened the public hearing to accept public comment on a proposal by the Litchfield Community Greenway for the construction of a hiking/bike trail through various Bantam properties.

Mark McCarthy, Litchfield Community Greenway representative, and Ken Hrica, PE, were present to discuss the application. Mr. McCarthy submitted a list of 45 abutting property owners with proof of notification as provided by the Post Office.

Mr. Hrica reviewed for the commission and several members of the public the proposed trail which picks up at the Litchfield line on North Shore Road, travels through the Borough and exits at the Litchfield line on High Bridge Road. He explained that the trail follows, for the most part, the existing railroad bed adding that there was no planned excavation. Valient Fuel has approved a parking area with the stipulation that a chain link fence be installed to delineate the trail from their property.

Mr. Hrica noted that the trail would be 8 feet wide with 2-foot shoulders with the exception of areas that have steep slopes. In those areas the trail would be reduced and safety fencing would be installed.

The Commission reviewed at length the two road crossings that are a part of the plan. Mr. Hrica stated that all plans must be approved by the State DOT and they are working with them and the Litchfield Public Works Department on the details of the project. Mr. Hrica distributed information on the Rapid Flash Beacon that would be installed at the crosswalks. Ms. Tornow asked who would be responsible for their maintenance to which Mr. Hrica stated, The Town of Litchfield through the Public Works Department.

There is one area along the trail that comes close to private property. Mr. Hrica stated that this was the one area that deviates from the rail line to keep the trail off of the private property. Mr. McCarthy noted that there is currently a natural buffer in place along that area of the trail.

Chairman Yarrish reviewed with the applicant a letter from Attorney Steven E. Byrne which includes his recommended conditions of approval. Items of interest from this letter include the installation of ballards at all entrances. Mr. Hrica stated that collapsable ballards are planned and would be included on a final plan. Additionally, Attorney Byrne requested that the applicant submit documentation that the City of Waterbury, Connecticut DOT and Connecticut DEEP have been notified and approvals, where necessary, have been obtained. Lastly, Attorney Byrne requested, prior to construction, agreements be in place to guarantee the applicant would be responsible for maintaining the trail in addition to repairing any damage to existing infrastructure during construction.

Chairman Yarrish opened the floor for public comment.

Dick Shelton addressed the Commission with regard to the previously discussed private property, aka Murphy driveway. Mr. Buonaiuto asked if "Private Property" signs could be installed to keep people from wandering off the trail. Mr. Hrica stated that they would be installed.

Ms. Alexandra Herst, 34 Highland Ave, spoke in support of the project noting how nice it will be to access commercial areas without needing to walk or bike on Route 202.

Mr. Gary Leavitt, West Morris Road, inquired about parking. Mr. Hrica stated that the main parking area would be located on Stoddard Road.

The Commission inquired as to when the project would begin and Mr. McCarthy stated that funding is in place and construction could commence once all approvals were in place noting that this would include over the winter months.

Motion made by Mr. Buonaiuto to close the public hearing at 7:07 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Donohue and carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie L. Douglass
Commission Clerk