

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Trails Committee

There was a meeting for the above referenced ad-hoc committee held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting style. The in-person meeting location was Bloomfield Town Hall – Wintonbury Room/Conference Room 5, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, and the virtual location was via Zoom.

Committee Members present were: *In-person:* Councilor Joseph Merritt, Chair; Robert Dickinson; and Kevin Gough

Committee Members absent were: Mayor Danielle Wong; Councilor Elizabeth Waterhouse; and Cory Bowie

Also present were:

In-person: Paula Jones; Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary; and *via Zoom:* Rob Trottier, Town Engineer

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

There was not a quorum, so no official business took place.

Approval of 11/14/24 & 1/9/25 Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum, so this item was tabled.

Town Engineer's Report

Mr. Trottier provided an update of key items related to trails from the department. Highlights included:

- *Transportation Alternatives Project—Trail from Hartford Town line to Bloomfield High School:* Mr. Trottier applied for a grant to fund this project in May 2024. The project was selected as the top project in the region, and was 100% funded with an award of \$6 million. They are currently conducting interviews with potential project designers.
- *LOTSIP—Trail from Town Center to Bloomfield High School:* A project designer has been chosen. Additional funds were needed due to delays from a new on-call designer process, and were approved at the Town Council meeting earlier this week. They will be issuing a purchase order and receiving a project schedule from the designer shortly.
- *Trail from Tyler Street to Rockwell Park:* The project design RFP is out, and due next Friday. They will make a recommendation of a designer to the vendor selection panel, and anticipate being on budget.
- *Town Center to Day Hill Road:* There were no new updates for this trail. Mr. Gough inquired about a recent article in the Hartford Business Journal that discussed reviving a plan to use the Griffin Line from Union Station to the airport. He noted that the article also mentioned a bill being introduced at the State legislature. Mr. Trottier did not have any additional information, but stated that he would ask around.
- *Blue Hills Complete Streets Project:* The Blue Hills project has a signed contract, with work being completed from the Town line to Britton Drive. They have a pre-construction meeting

next Friday, and will start work on April 1.

- *Tunxis Avenue Sidewalks:* Bids for the sidewalks on Tunxis Avenue, from Filley Park to Geissler's, with a crosswalk to Geissler's, are due next Friday. Approval from DOT will be needed to proceed.
- *School Street / Wintonbury Ave Intersection:* VHB has started preliminary design, and expect to have the design complete in a month. The design will need to be reviewed by CRCOG.
- *Maple Avenue Street Calming:* The street calming design calls for four choke points and one raised bump. The Town Manager has agreed to install temporary choke points, potentially cones, with a permanent solution to start in the late summer/early fall.

Old Business

East Coast Greenway Study Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Gough reported that the advisory committee will meet next week at CRCOG. They are anticipating learning the final preferred alternative alignment of the Greenway, and also where the Hartford and Bloomfield sections of trail will meet.

There was a brief discussion about where the Bloomfield trail will reach the Hartford line. The Bloomfield trail will connect to Hartford at Tobey Road.

Adams/Hoskins to Simsbury Connector Update

Mr. Trottier, Mr. Carter, and Mr. Gough walked the trail in January. Potential next steps were discussed. Mr. Trottier's preference would be to have the trail evolve naturally, beginning by asking DPW to clear the trail and create a defined path. Ms. Jones will reach out to her contact previously involved with the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) "Blue Trail Rock Stars" to gauge their potential interest in clearing/creating the trail.

East Coast Greenway Path Inclusion in Town Center Plan

A connecting trail of the East Coast Greenway is needed through the Town Center. The committee discussed the current proposed Town Center plan and the proposed dead-ending of Wintonbury Ave. It was noted that this would allow the trail to avoid needing to cross streets. Mr. Trottier has forwarded the proposed Town Center plan to DOT, to request review as part of their current reevaluation of roundabouts. Mr. Gough noted that the Town Center plan consultant is aware of the need for a bike path through the Town Center.

Bicycle-Friendly Community Status Update

There was no update at this time. Councilor Merritt will see about getting it going again.

New Business

Mr. Trottier noted that they will be applying for funding for Gabb Road traffic calming as part of DOT's next grant round for community connectivity. This is the same program that provided funding for the

Filley Park to Geissler's sidewalk on Tunxis Avenue. Councilor Merritt inquired if these funds could be used for the last section of the Greenway. Mr. Trottier stated the funds are for construction and not design, but that he will apply for funding when the next round of transportation alternatives funding is released.

There was a brief discussion on rails with trails.

Public Comment

Mr. Dickinson noted that South Windsor is utilizing the railroad line along Route 5 with the distribution centers in the area.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.