

Minutes of Quinnipiac River Linear Trail Advisory Committee (QRLTAC)
Emergency Meeting—Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009 7:00 p.m.
Wallingford Town Hall--Room 205

Attendance: Mary Mushinsky, co-chair; Lynn Hoffman, co-chair; Charlie Uznanski; Cathy Granucci; Margie Kowalski. A quorum was present.
Guests: John Thompson, Town Engineer; Mayor Bill Dickinson

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. Mary Mushinsky explained the purpose of the emergency meeting was to review the town's proposal to transfer \$165,000 from the linear trail project account to the repair of Reskin Drive which appeared unexpectedly on the Town Council agenda of Feb. 10th. The Council is seeking our views.

John Thompson explained that on Dec. 11-12, 2008, flooding undermined Reskin Drive and exposed utilities. The culvert was built in the 1970's and is undersized at present. The town performed temporary repairs. There is the likelihood of further damage and the site needs a complete bridge replacement ("bridge" refers to a concrete box culvert of a certain size). The town wishes to advance-purchase the materials. DPW will do the construction. John left for vacation and the committee was never briefed.

The \$165,000 in trail funds are part of the joint requests of Engineering and DPW which are funded from the revenues to the town from the Electric Division. The intent was to buy base material and have DPW begin the Phase III soft trail surface construction in the winter of 2008-09. DPW sought permission from CT DOT to access the work site from Wilbur Cross Parkway and was denied unless the equivalent of a new ramp was put in. John is also awaiting word from CT DEP regarding whether they would grant us their sliver of land for access. At this point, the window of time for winter construction is over and DPW will be working other projects. John recommended the funds be re-routed to Reskin Drive. John believes Phase III will not be ready to proceed until 2010.

Mayor Dickinson said the other item approved at the same council meeting indicates his support for continuing Phase III. The item voted was a legal agreement between the town and the federal government for the \$800,000 Phase III grant and sets up the process for reimbursement. John added the mayor has also authorized design funds of \$200,000 which are being spent now and \$150,000 has been proposed for Phase IV. There is also the STEAP request to the state for the Hall Avenue/Senior Center loop.

Mary expressed concern that the town department heads did not ask for help with DOT, as DOT generally says no to any request. She said legislators are usually able to work with the DOT to come up with a solution. Mary reported there will be traditional road and alternative transportation funds in the federal stimulus package and the town needs to have projects ready to claim these funds. She asked about other projects on the Engineering/DPW list.

Lynn said the significance of the Council's trail agenda items had not been clear to the committee and she was seeking reassurance for the future.

The discussion having concluded, Charlie moved the committee authorize use of the \$165,000 for the emergency repair but the committee wants continued support by the Town for the next phase of the trail. The motion was seconded by Margie. The motion passed unanimously. Cathy moved to adjourn, Margie seconded and the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Respectfully submitted—Mary Mushinsky, co-chair