

People Friendly Stamford meeting minutes

Tue Mar 22, 2022, 7pm EDT, Zoom

Attendees

Chris Dawson, Dave Avery, David Martin, David Stein, Dice Oh, Emily Gordon, Jerry Silber, Jordan Force, Liz Middleton, Luke Bittenwieser, Marion Glickson, Robin Druckman, Robin Stein, Sarah Noonan, Sean Boeger, Sheila Brown, Tom Flynn, Will Wright, Zach Oberholtzer

Greenwich/Stamford partnership

Jerry is having discussions about ways Stamford could partner with Greenwich: e.g., sharing a bikeshare or scooter vendor, finding a bike lane connection between the towns, and working to legalize speed cameras. Speed cameras a/k/a “automated traffic enforcement” are currently illegal at the state level, so it would require state legislation to change this. There isn’t any legislation in the works at the moment but it’s important we keep the conversation going with state legislators to work toward this goal. Tom mentioned that he was partnering with Pedal Greenwich on exploring possible bike lane routes between Stamford and Greenwich.

State Legislation

There are two state bills we are supporting as a group: [HB5429](#) (transit-oriented communities) and [SB-4](#) (e-bike rebates and reducing transportation carbon emissions). Please read our [testimony here](#).

We are looking for people to have conversations with state legislators, particularly about HB5429. Read more about the bill here:

- [Desegregate Connecticut](#)
- [Fairfield County needs transit-oriented development now](#)
- [Zoning changes can make CT welcoming for young people](#)
- [Don’t avoid real issues on housing debate](#)
- [Housing showdown is about maintaining status quo](#)

Happy Hour

Our [next happy hour](#) is this Thursday at Towne Parlor - hope to see you all there!

Transportation Department Update

Luke Bittenwieser gave an update on the city DOT:

- Frank Petise was recently appointed full bureau chief.
- Atlantic St improvement project - please fill out the [public survey here](#). The city DOT is still working on the design plans. They are working to minimize the use of [eminent domain](#). Dice made the point that as a safe streets group we need to push back against street widenings. Our roads are plenty wide, we just need to reprioritize some space from car lanes and travel if we want better bike lanes and sidewalks. Continually widening roads to make more room makes streets less safe and less friendly to navigate.
- Outdoor dining ordinance - [Connecticut state](#) is working on a bill to make outdoor dining permitted this spring and summer similar to the last two years. The city DOT is working on a city ordinance to make in-street dining permanent that has been presented to the Board of Representatives and is available [online](#).

West Main St. Bridge

The mayoral administration is working on collecting public feedback on the plans for what to do with the historic West Main Street Bridge, which People Friendly Stamford have advocated to maintain a pedestrian-only bridge.

Scooter Amendment

Will is working with some reps (Gilbride, Boeger) to update a local ordinance ([§§ 231-65. et seq.](#)) banning mini-bikes to make clear it doesn't ban e-scooters, e-bikes and other micromobility devices.