

## **BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Trails Committee**

There was a special meeting for the above referenced ad-hoc committee held on Thursday, December 11, 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

Committee Members absent were: None

Ad Hoc Members present were: *In-person:* Robert Dickinson; Kevin Gough

Ad Hoc Members absent were: Cori Bowie

Also present were:

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

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

### **Approval of 11/14/24, 1/9/25, 3/13/25 & 6/17/25 Meeting Minutes**

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

### **Approval of 2026 Meeting Schedule**

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. (Full report attached). Highlights included:

- *Terry Plains Road Trail:* This trail would connect Simsbury to Bloomfield via Adams Road. The historical value of this notch area was discussed. There is the possibility for a second phase of the project that would extend the trail to the end of the gravel section of Terry Plains Road, which would also allow parking.
- *East Coast Greenway:* There are currently three projects in Bloomfield in design:
  1. *Town Center to Bloomfield High School:* This trail is funded by LOTSIP. Crossing the rail line is a big hurdle, particularly as DOT is negotiating with a new rail operator. The Town Engineer is collaborating with DOT rails team and designer. The importance of this trail for safety for students walking from the high school was discussed. Suggestions included having the crossing of the rail line as part of the agreement with the new rail operator and a pedestrian overpass over the tracks.
  2. *High School to Tobey Road:* This trail is funded by FHWA and DOT, and is in the design phase.

3. *Tyler Street to Blue Hills Ave*: This trail is funding by DOT through CRCOG with a LOTSIP grant. The design will be submitted to CRCOG next week. Concern about the residents on Tyler Street who will be impacted was discussed. The path will likely be on the west side of the street to align with existing sidewalk and avoid the culvert on the east side of the street.
- *Tyler Street to Columbia Rd*: This is a future DOT project that will be along Cottage Grove Road, with eventual connectivity to Keney Park in Hartford. Councilor Merritt advocated that the trail extend to the bridge to South Windsor to aid connectivity.
- *Town Center to Day Hill Road*: There were no new updates for this trail. There is possible funding that may be a good fit for this trail, but will not be available for 2-3 years.
- *Blue Hills Complete Streets Project*: This project has been completed.
- *School Street / Wintonbury Ave Intersection*: This project is in design, and will include five-foot sidewalks, intersection realignment, and traffic calming.
- *Tunxis Avenue Sidewalks*: This project has been completed.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



## Memorandum

To: Councilor Joseph Merritt and members of the Bloomfield Trails Committee

From: Robert Trottier, P.E., Town Engineer

Date: December 11, 2025

Subject: Town Engineer Update for 12/11/2025 Trails Committee Meeting

### **Bloomfield Greenway Update**

#### **Terry Plains Road Trail**

This project will be submitted to the CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant program as part of the CT Forest and park Association's application.

#### **CRCOG East Coast Greenway Study**

The study was endorsed by the Bloomfield Town Council on August 25, 2025. CRCOG will issue the final report once all involved communities have endorsed the study.

#### **Town Center to High School, State Project L011-0003**

The towns consultant, BL companies has completed the Preliminary Engineering phase and in coordination with CTDOT Rails, the decision has been made to pursue installation of the trail on the north side of Park Avenue. Significant coordination and delay will occur due to the crossing of the Griffin Line. The CTDOT has delayed signing an agreement with a new operator of the Griffin Line which is prohibiting the trail project from moving forward. The Engineering Department is continuing to coordinate with CTDOT Rails and our consultant to move this project forward.

#### **Tyler Street to Rockwell Park, State Project L011-0004**

The Engineering Department has received approval from CRCOG to fund construction of this project all the way to Blue Hills Avenue. The Towns consultant, VHB has been issued a purchase order for the extra survey and design and is scheduled to submit preliminary design plans next week for CRCOG review. The Engineering Department anticipate holding a public information meeting for this project in January.

The Engineering Department continues to work with Eversource to acquire the

necessary license agreement to allow the trail on the Eversource owned old trolley line right of way.

#### **Hartford Town Line to High School, State Project 011-164**

The quality based consultant selected for this project, BL Companies, submitted a completed scope of work to CTDOT for review in July and final scope comments were just received back last week. The consultant will now assign man hours and a fee to the scope before design can be authorized. This project was submitted to CRCOG for funding under the FHWA Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program and was selected by the CRCOG Transportation Committee as the top project to advance to CTDOT for review.

#### **Town Center to Day Hill Road**

No funding is currently identified for this project, however, a draft of the CRCOG ECG Study was issued and CTDOT is making East Coast Greenway gap projects a priority and actively looking at options for funding these projects.

### **Compete Streets Projects**

#### **Blue Hills Avenue Compete Streets Improvements, Hartford Town Line to Britton Drive, State Project L011-0002**

Our contractor, Tabacco and Sons from Bristol, has been completed work and only close-out paper work and some minor spring touch up work remains.

#### **School Street and Wintonbury Complete Streets/Intersection Improvements, State Project L011-0005**

The preliminary design revealed many easements were needed in order to locate new sidewalk adjacent to School Street. The CTDOT has agreed to handle the right of way phase of the project which will delay the project design from being advertised however VHB continues to advance the design concurrently with the right of way phase.

#### **Tunxis Avenue Sidewalk Project, State Project 0170-3513**

Zsyk Brothers from West Hartford has completed the project and a final inspection was held with CTDOT and the contractor last week. Only project close out paper work is remaining.

#### **Maple Avenue Traffic Calming**

Design by East West Engineering is expected to be completed and the project advertised over the winter. Temporary delineators were installed by DPW at the end of June 2026 and will be removed once the project goes into construction.