Minutes not yet approved.
Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BLOOMFIELD, CT

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Trails Committee

There was a special meeting for the above referenced committee held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 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: Councilor Elizabeth Waterhouse

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

Ad Hoc Members absent were: Cory Bowie

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Councilor Merritt reported that Councilor Elizabeth Waterhouse had been appointed to the committee.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Town Engineer Report/Update

It was noted that this would be Mr. Trottier's last week. Councilor Merritt thanked him for all the work he's done. Mr. Trottier provided an update of key items related to trails, including:

- A preview of the Merritt Greenway and Paul Hughes Greenway signs that will be installed on the East Coast Greenway in Bloomfield.

- *Woodland Ave*: The Town was awarded $1.5 million for a sidewalk project on Woodland Ave. from Ashley Court to Blue Hills Ave.

- *Terry Plains Road Trail*: Mr. Gough will be the point person for this project. This project was included in the Connecticut Forests and Parks Association grant application. Awardees have not yet been announced, but if the project is approved, work could start as early as this fall.

- *CRCOG East Coast Greenway Study*: DOT is reaching out to communities to see their focus. A few towns have not yet endorsed an official route.

- *East Coast Greenway*:

  1. *Town Center to Bloomfield High School*: The Town met with the new rail operator for how the Greenway will cross the railroad tracks. The consultant will advance the trail design based on the meeting.

  2. *Tyler Street to Blue Hills Ave*: The preliminary design for the trail is complete. A public information session was held, and the proposed trail was not well-received by all. There will be a follow-up public information session, likely in a month. The committee asked to be invited. Committee recommendations included inviting subject matter experts and letting abutters know what can be done to improve the area (fence, bushes, etc).

  3. *High School to Tobey Road*: The Town has a meeting with DOT tomorrow to negotiate the last component of man hours with the consultant for the project. The project is 100% paid, and does not impact the Town financially. The trail will replace the existing sidewalk on the west side of Tyler Road avoid needing to cross the culvert, and to line up with the trail at Carmen Arace.

  4. *Tobey Road to Tyler Street*: This route is no longer planned to follow the Griffin Rail line, but will go across private land, and the owner is supportive.

     There is a separate project being considered for Granby Street—either a multi-use trail or sidewalk with decorative lighting and street trees.

     There was a brief discussion about the Rockwell Park spur of the trail and options for it.

  5. *Town Center to Day Hill Road*: There were no new updates for this trail. It would be a good fit for transportation alternatives funding when the next round is available. There was a discussion on if splitting the section into two parts would make funding more feasible, as well as a brief discussion on potential routes.

- *School Street Project*: The public information session went well, and the design has been advanced. The state initiated a roundabout project for the School Street/Wintonbury Ave intersection, but the roundabout has not been confirmed. The Town may be able to advance sidewalks for the project to the driveway at Seabury.

- *Maple Ave Traffic Calming*: The project will be advertised for construction tomorrow with a July 8 bid opening.

There was a brief discussion on the status of the East Coast Greenway in Simsbury.

New Business

Councilor Merritt reported that he had been asked to speak about the East Coast Greenway at Old Saint Andrew Church's blessing of the bikes ceremony.

Public Comment

Paula Jones reported that Bloomfield participated in the recent Simsbury Sustainability Fair and that fair organizers are looking to engage the bike community more at the event next year. Additionally, she noted the potential for a multi-town invasive plant cleanup work day along the rail trails.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

The complete meeting recording is available at https://www.youtube.com/live/x5LJPPXnjo4