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

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Trails Committee

There was a special meeting for the above referenced committee held on Thursday, September 17, 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*—Kevin Gough; *and via Zoom*—Robert Dickinson (joined at 6:12 p.m.)

Ad Hoc Members absent were: Cory Bowie

Also present were: *In-person*: Bill Adamson; Ted Goerner; Darin Lemire, Town Engineer; Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m.

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Town Engineer Report/Update

Mr. Lemire provided an update of items related to trails, including:

- *East Coast Greenway*:
    1. *Tobey Road to Tyler Street*: There are around 10 properties that will be impacted by this trail. Councilor Merritt requested to see the map and current property ownership.
    2. *Town Center to Bloomfield High School*: The design for this section is at 30% completion, and is anticipated to be finished by the end of the year. A diagnostic meeting was held in June, and a design review meeting was held at the end of August with a third-party reviewer. The trail will cross on the northside of the rail line.
    3. *Tyler Street to Blue Hills Ave*: There was a community meeting for the project in August. The meeting went well and community concerns were addressed. Applying for a wetlands permit is anticipated in September/October. The Town will be reaching out to residents along the trail for screening/fencing preference. There was a brief discussion about trail maintenance for all Town trails. The design is 50% complete, with the final design anticipated by January. Construction may begin in 2027, but there are a number of Town projects in the pipeline to be managed and prioritized.

4. *High School to Tobey Road*: A design contract with BL Companies was signed in August, and a project kickoff was held today. Design is anticipated to take a year and a half, and survey work and traffic counts have begun. It is hoped that the project will be fully complete by 2029, and it was noted that obtaining property rights may take some time. Most of the trail will be 10 feet, although it will narrow to five feet along the bridge on Park Ave. There will be another meeting in late fall when design is 15% complete.

5. *Town Center to Day Hill Road*: There were no new updates for this trail. It may be a good fit for transportation alternatives funding when the next round is available, but this date is not known. There was brief discussion about best routes for this trail.

- *Terry Plains Road Trail*: This project was included in the Connecticut Forests and Parks Association grant application. Awardees have not yet been announced.

- *School Street Project*: The design for this traffic calming and sidewalks project will be 80% complete in October. It is anticipated that construction on the project will be complete in 2027. Sidewalks for the project will extend to Seabury. Councilor Merritt highlighted the need for sidewalks along a stretch of Wintonbury Ave.

  DOT is still considering a roundabout for the intersection of School Street and Wintonbury Ave., and will be holding a public information meeting in December. If DOT decides to move forward with a roundabout in this location, construction will not begin until 2029.

- *Woodland Ave*: The Town was awarded $1.5 million for a sidewalk project on Woodland Ave. from Ashley Court to Blue Hills Ave. RFPs for on-call consultants will go out next month, with the goal to start design this year.

- *Granby Street*: The Town is starting a complete streets/streetscape project on Granby Street, stretching from Cottage Grove to the Hartford line. RFPs are going out next week, and the project will include items similar to the Blue Hills Ave. streetscape project, including decorative lighting. There was a discussion about burying the utility lines, and Mr. Gough & Councilor Merritt requested information on the cost for adding this to the project. Design for the project will begin in October or November.

- *Maple Ave Traffic Calming*: The Town has signed a contract with a Bloomfield company to start construction on four median islands by the end of next week, with the goal of completing construction by the end of the year. Three of the islands will be between Mountain Ave. and Burr Road, with the fourth located south of Burr Road. A raised intersection will be added near Sandpiper Drive next year.

There was a brief discussion on the status of the East Coast Greenway preferred route in Hartford. Mr. Gough requested that Mr. Lemire reach out to Caitlin Palmer of CRCOG to see if there were any updates.

New Business

The frequency of meetings was discussed, with a request to meet more often. It was determined that additional meetings would not be added at this time, and Councilor Merritt noted that he provides updates on Facebook via an East Coast Greenway page.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

The complete meeting recording is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlmDOWoNKVE&t=586s