

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Town of New London

September 11, 2025

5-6:30 PM Whipple Hall

Walkable New London Planning Session

Meeting Notes Prepared by Russell Moore

Attendees: Russell Moore, Erica Brown, Ed Condict, Don Eberly, Emily Campbell, Woody Canady

Excused Absences: Bebe Casey, Grant Smith, Judy Feriera

Putnam Kidder, Dept. of Recreation Director, was unavoidably detained at the last minute and therefore was not available to set up the meeting video recording or AV projection equipment.

Russ briefed the Committee on actions taken in regard to the Walkable New London (WNL) initiative since the last Committee meeting. He outlined the following steps:

- 1) Invited Adam Ricker and Sam Clarke for a site visit to the proposed Waystation/ Pocket Park location behind the Chamber Booth on Main Street. Ashley Seabold replied on their behalf that she would arrange but probably not until October.
- 2) Scheduled an appointment for October 2<sup>nd</sup> with Kevin Ten Brinke, Principal and Steve D'Angelo at Bonin Architects & Associates , PLLC to discuss the preparation of a schematic drawing of the proposed project.
- 3) Contacted Tim Paradis to have this item placed on an October meeting of the Planning Board for discussion. The Committee agreed that the second Planning Board meeting in October, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM would be the optimal presentation date. Emily agreed to confirm with Tim.

Russ referenced two documents that were distributed to the Committee in preparation for this meeting: a proposed project timeline and a synopsis of the information available on the web regarding New England pocket parks – planning steps and features.

Russ presented preliminary maps for the History and the Conservation Trailhead Walks. This information was shared via passing laptops from Erica and Russ as AV equipment was unavailable to project the maps. Russ utilized Google Maps to create the routes which provide very minimal information but serve as a starting point. The maps provided information through clickable red star markers that designate starting and ending points as well as points of interest.

These two route maps are accessible through the following links:

Conservation Commission Trail Route Map

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1T9m8RO-5uVdRUT\\_gjFSJ8JD9qTsk3fM&ll=43.41750013979973%2C-71.99641872486194&z=15](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1T9m8RO-5uVdRUT_gjFSJ8JD9qTsk3fM&ll=43.41750013979973%2C-71.99641872486194&z=15)

History Walking Tour

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1rx6XXUPzuVnjGi2hO4fdOsnuQ9HXEgo&ll=43.41869011816679%2C-71.99208124372687&z=15>

The Committee members discussed the merits of the specific routes and various Apps that could be used on signage or on the Town website to access the information. More specifically GAIA, STRAVA and Trail Finder were mentioned as possible mapping tools.

The Committee agreed that the project would encompass only three routes in a preliminary launch stage adding the Community Recreation Walk. Ed and Don emphasized the need to use an incremental approach to projected development. This sentiment was expressed by Bob Bowers who was in attendance as a member of the public.

Emily suggested that the route maps could be displayed at other locations such as by the bike rack in front of the Town office building on the Green.

The Committee discussed the merits and possible limitations of the proposed Waystation site behind the Chamber booth. Russ expressed his preference to create a fully developed design and build components of the project sequentially. Erica and Ed affirmed that volunteer labor and donated materials could substantially reduce the costs. Erica stated that Committee members already have business contacts that could be valuable in completing the project.

The Committee agreed that more detailed work should be completed before the Planning Board presentation. Russ will work with Don on further developing the History Walk. Erica and Emily will provide additional input into the Community Recreation Walk route. Ed, Woody and Russ will work on further articulating the Waystation concept before the Ronin Associates meeting.