



## TOWN OF HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

### Farmington Canal Commission Minutes

Hamden Government  
Center  
2750 Dixwell Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518  
Tel: (203) 287-7070  
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#### Regular Meeting

7:00 PM, October 6, 2026

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner N. Hansen at **7:02 PM**.

#### 2. ATTENDANCE

The Clerk called the roll, and the following members were present:

##### *Present:*

*Commissioner Nick Hansen  
Commissioner Peter Cyr  
Commissioner Kathy Larson  
Commissioner Jeffrey Campbell  
Commissioner Gerry Tobin*

##### *Absent*

*Commissioner David Schaefer, Chairman  
Commissioner David W. Radcliffe*

Also in attendance were Briana J. Belton-Robinson, Boards and Commissions Clerk, and 4 members of the public, Judy Sirota Rosenthal, Violet Andrew, Elena Lindamood, Aaron Goode and Norm Berg, who attended virtually.

Commissioner N. Hansen served as Acting Chair in Commissioner D. Schaefer's absence.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Acting Chairman N. Hasen requested a motion to adopt the minutes from Tuesday, September 1st, 2026.

Commissioner K. Larson made the motion to amend the previous agenda, and Commissioner J. Campbell seconded it.

##### **Vote by Roll Call:**

##### *Yes*

*Commissioner Nick Hansen, Acting Chairman*

Commissioner Peter Cyr  
Commissioner Kathy Larson  
Commissioner Jeffrey Campbell  
Commissioner Gerry Tobin

**No**

**Absent**

Commissioner David Schaefer, Chairman  
Commissioner David Radcliffe

The motion passed.

- **Roll Call Vote Summary:** Yes 5, No 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 2

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Judy Sirota Rosenthal* addressed the Commission regarding a portrait/mural of her late daughter, Sylvie (Sylvia) Sydney Rosenthal, an artist who grew up in Hamden, located along the Farmington Canal Trail near Dixwell Avenue and Putnam Avenue. Ms. Rosenthal asked about adding an informational sign or post, potentially including a QR code, so trail users could learn about her daughter's life and work. Commissioners expressed condolences and advised her to develop a proposal showing the proposed design, content, and location and submit it to the Commission. It was also noted that requests for installations along the trail generally involve the Planning and Zoning Office and may require additional Town approval.

*Violet Andrews*, a UConn master's student and Difference Maker mentor, and *Elena Lindamood*, a Hamden High School student participating in the CAP program, presented a proposal to install two lending libraries along the canal. The proposed libraries would include environmentally focused books for children and teens, Spanish-language materials, and informational pamphlets about local parks, trails, and native species. Commissioners discussed possible locations and emphasized the need for a long-term maintenance and sustainability plan. Suggestions included exploring partnerships with Miller Memorial Library and the Hamden Land Conservation Trust. Ms. Andrews and Ms. Lindamood indicated that they would further develop the proposal and submit a written plan to the Commission.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

*There will be a brief summary of the correspondence submitted between the last correspondence update and this one. This includes but is not limited to any correspondence with council members that members wish to submit for the record. It can also include written communication to the council from the administration, community members, etc.*

Acting Chairman N. Hansen summarized correspondence about a bollard just north of West Woods Road that reportedly fell after a trail user touched it. The Town forwarded the matter to staff. Parks Superintendent Tom Brown subsequently reported that Park Maintenance had secured the bollards. Commissioner Campbell asked whether the issue resulted from improper securing or a structural problem; Acting Chair Hansen stated that

the correspondence suggested the bollard had not been securely bolted, while noting that he had not witnessed the incident.

## **6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*(if recommended by the town attorney)*

No Executive Session was held.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **1. Report of the Chairman**

Chairman D. Schaefer was absent. Acting Chairman N. Hansen reported that he had nothing additional to add beyond matters already discussed.

## **8. LENDING LIBRARY DISCUSSION**

The Commission noted that the lending library proposal had been discussed during Public Comment. No additional discussion was held.

## **9. APPROVAL OF 2027 MEETING CALENDAR**

The Commission reviewed the proposed 2027 meeting calendar, generally maintaining meetings at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom, with no meeting in August. Because November 2, 2027 is Election Day, the Commission agreed to move the November meeting to Tuesday, November 9, 2027. July 6, 2027 will remain a placeholder for the Commission's traditional in-person summer meeting, with the date to be revisited closer to the meeting.

Commissioner P. Cyr moved to approve the amended 2027 meeting calendar.  
Commissioner G. Tobin seconded the motion.

### **Vote by Roll Call:**

#### **Yes**

*Commissioner Nick Hansen, Acting Chairman*

*Commissioner Peter Cyr*

*Commissioner Kathy Larson*

*Commissioner Jeffrey Campbell*

*Commissioner Gerry Tobin*

#### **No**

#### **Absent**

*Commissioner David Schaefer, Chairman*

*Commissioner David Radcliffe*

The motion passed.

- **Roll Call Vote Summary:** Yes 5, No 0, Abstentions 0, Absent 2.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner J. Campbell asked for an update regarding a grant opportunity for mile markers and whether Town branding could be included in addition to Greenway branding. Commissioner P. Cyr reported that efforts to obtain additional information had reached a dead end and that the application timeline appeared to have passed.

#### **11. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was presented.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner P. Cyr made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner G. Tobin seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at **7:38 PM**.

[https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/J7CaQXGaWrc3rlcblgHw8EaW-aJwuCgYkPxu31esjiO5PCXlbTD5sScYhnfhm6lZ.ByX1lkkNSq5Lkwa ?startTime=1791327231000](https://hamden.zoom.us/rec/share/J7CaQXGaWrc3rlcblgHw8EaW-aJwuCgYkPxu31esjiO5PCXlbTD5sScYhnfhm6lZ.ByX1lkkNSq5Lkwa?startTime=1791327231000)