

Action 5.5.3: Conduct a bicycle and/or pedestrian audit Old Lyme, CT

Summary Statement: The Sustainable Old Lyme Team conducted a two-phase pedestrian audit during April-July 2020. Building on a process of community engagement, the audit results present an examination of the sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes (or lack of), driver safety, and features including benches and trash receptacles. As part of a larger study of the safety of walking and bicycling in Old Lyme, particularly for adults ages 65 and older, this audit was supplemented with a walk/bike community survey to understand where residents like to walk and how the town could become more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly. Preliminary results of both the audit and survey were provided to the Town's Board of Selectmen on July 28, 2020.

We conducted our Audit using the Equity Toolkit under Action 9.1: Optimize for Equity. Please see our Action 9.1 submission for more on that aspect of our study.

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The Pedestrian Audit was conducted in two phases.

Phase One Audit

In Phase One, the Sustainable Old Lyme Team first engaged local faith communities, including the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme's Environmental Committee, Saint Ann's Episcopal Church's newly-developed environmental group, as well as the Town's Conservation Commission to develop and conduct a walk/bike audit during April and May, 2020. (At this early stage we also had conversations with the Director of the Senior Center and others to consider the equity issues for our older population).

Meetings with the Church and Conservation Commission members determined the best routes to audit for this initial phase. Four routes were chosen due to ongoing community conversations about the highest-priority roadways to consider for sidewalks and/or bicycle lanes. Old Lyme residents' interest in pedestrian infrastructures including sidewalks and bicycle lanes was assessed as part of a larger July-September 2019 survey by the Town's Economic Development Commission ("EDC"). With a survey population of 730, 65% of respondents said there was a need from the Town for better pedestrian infrastructure such as sidewalks and signage (The EDC survey was analyzed by CERC/Advance CT and their findings are attached to this submission).

EDC survey respondents were also asked if they supported specific public infrastructure in six areas of Town. Overall, respondents were most interested in bike lanes and more pedestrian friendly infrastructure (such as sidewalks). The strongest support was for the pedestrian infrastructure in the Halls Road area (53.0%). Just over 31% of respondents also wanted to see pedestrian infrastructure in the Boston Post Road / Rogers Lake area, and just under 30% were interested in it on Route 156 south of I-95. There was also the most interest in bike lanes on Route 156 south of I-95 (40.2% of respondents),

followed by Halls Road (38.9%) and Boston Post Road / Rogers Lake (36.1%). Interest in pedestrian infrastructure by survey respondents could correlate with the population density and number of respondents living in various parts of Town. For instance, someone living in the southern end of Old Lyme may be less interested in the pedestrian infrastructure of the Rogers Lake area than someone who lives in that area. Lyme Street and Hartford Avenue are two of only a few streets in Old Lyme with existing sidewalks.

From the EDC Survey Findings:

Figure 15: Types of Development Respondents Would Like to See on Lyme Street south of I-95

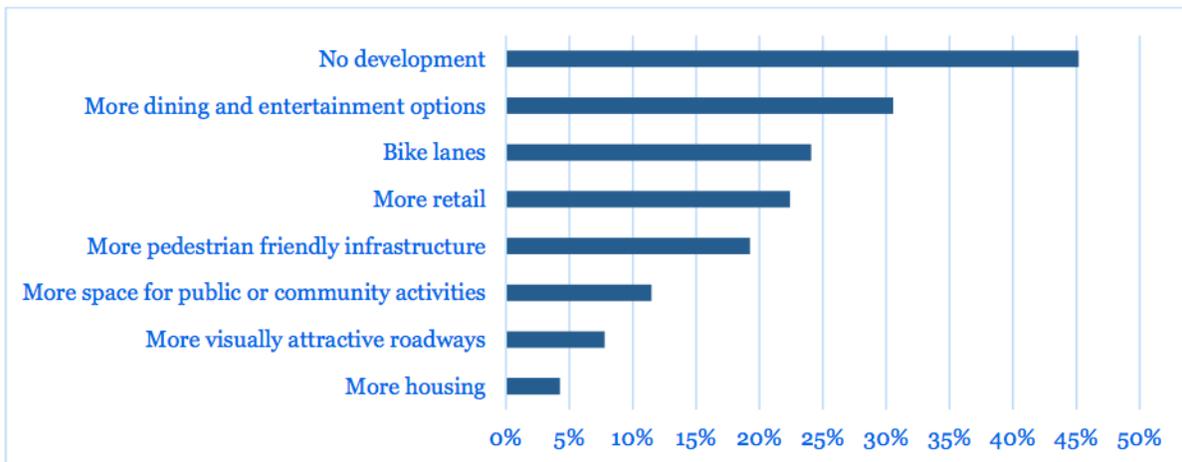


Figure 14: Types of Development Respondents Would Like to See on Route 156 south of I-95

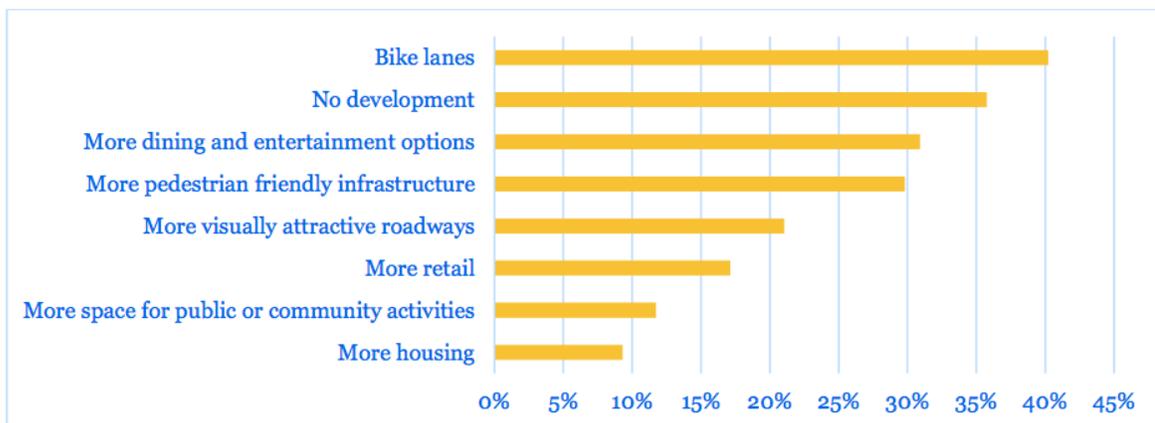
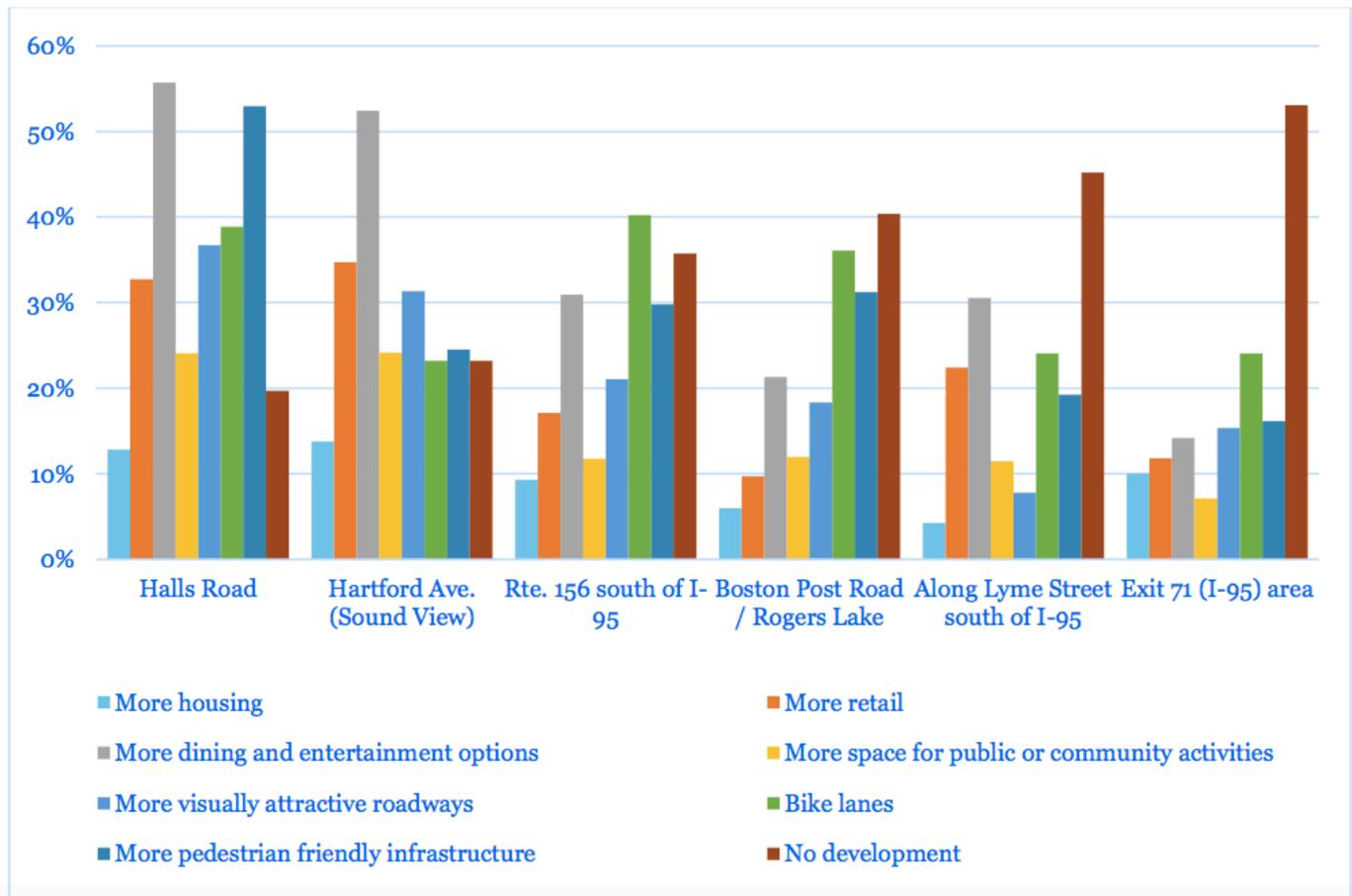
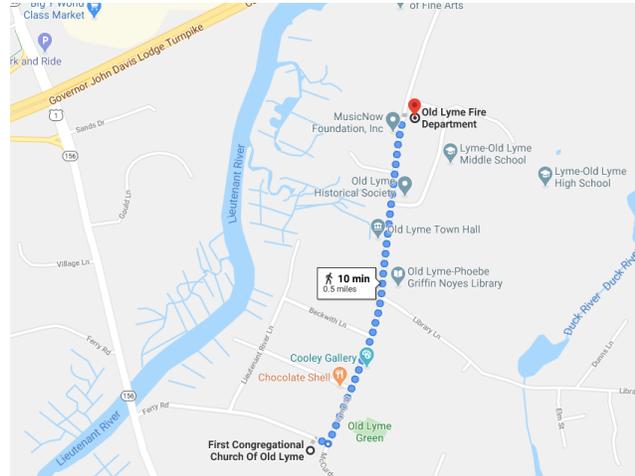


Figure 11: Types of Development Respondents Would Like to See in Specific Parts of Town

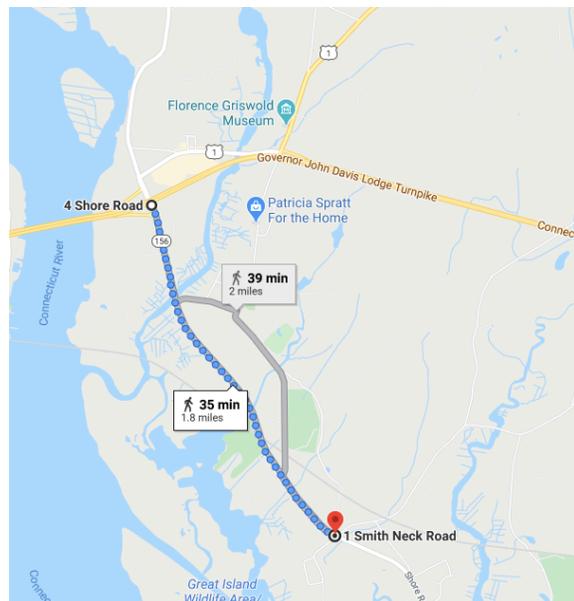


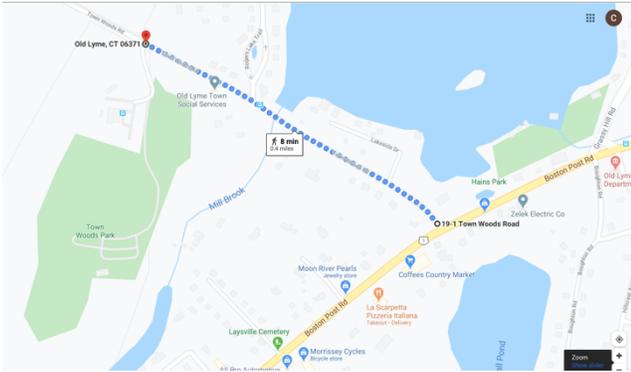
In the Phase 1 audit, four routes popular with walkers and bikers were chosen. Halls Road was not included; its walkability is being assessed by a separate effort in Town by the Halls Road Improvement Committee. These four chosen routes are important links in connectivity to other parts of Town as well as their commercial or scenic attributes:

1. **Lyme Street** (south of I-95) between the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme and Old Lyme's Fire Department. Considered our Town's "Main Street," this area also known as "the Village" is a popular stretch for walkers including local tourists to our arts district. Lyme Street is adjacent to Halls Road, our main commercial district. It was also deemed strategically important since it is close to several Open Space Commission trailheads including Champlain South Trail. Lyme Street was conducted as both a Phase One and Phase Two walking audit.



2. **Route 156 (Shore Road)** from south of the I-95 overpass to Smith Neck Road and the beach community. This is a wide State road, heavily trafficked, and is the recipient of a Community Connectivity Grant to install sidewalks along a section of the road. This length was conducted as both a pedestrian audit and bicycle audit during Phase One.

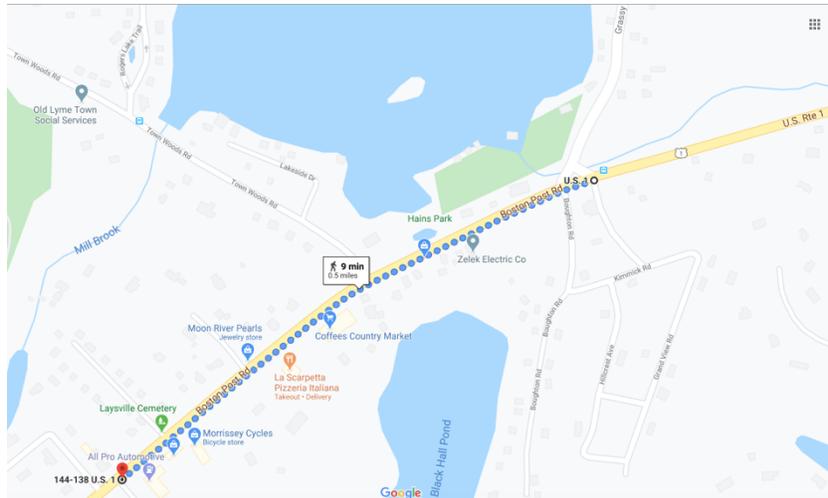




3. **Town Woods Road** from the intersection of Boston Post Road to the Senior Center and Town soccer fields. This is also a popular walking road for residents living in the Rogers Lake area. This was conducted as a Phase One walking audit.

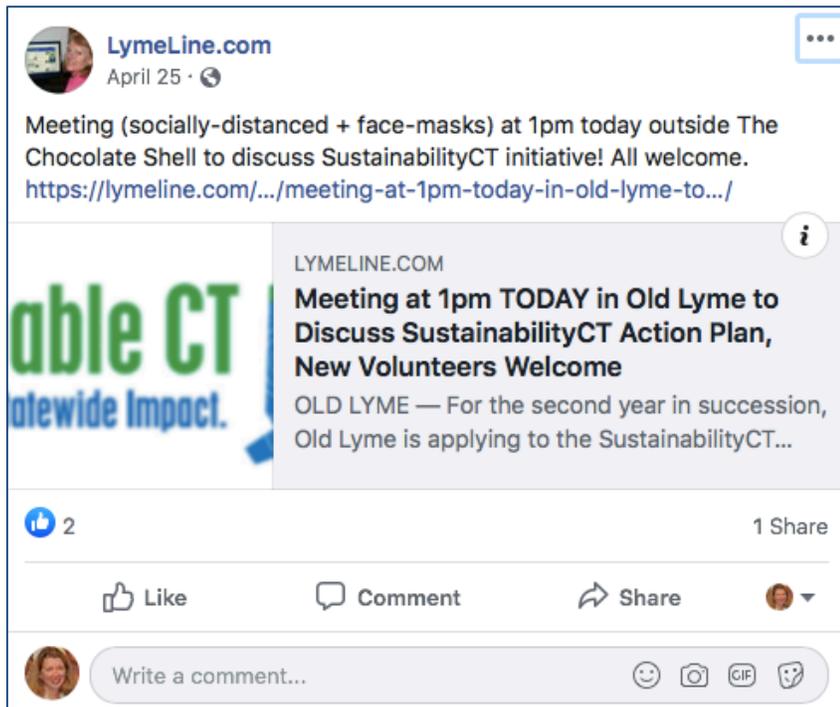
4. **Boston Post Road/Route 1** in the Rogers Lake/Laysville section of Old Lyme.

This State road includes a small yet popular commercial section, and the Town's Hains Park with access to Rogers Lake. This was conducted as both a pedestrian audit and bicycle audit during Phase One.



Community members were sought to take part in the audit beyond the members of the Church environmental committee and Conservation Commission. A press release was sent to the local e-newspaper (*LymeLine*), social media was engaged, and the beach communities were asked to share this information via their newsletters and public bulletin boards. This, of course, took place during the Governor's COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. Faith communities, businesses, local government, and town nonprofits were all "closed to the public" and to varying degrees were working from home to create online environments for their communities. This necessary preoccupation with meeting the needs of the public through online church services, meetings, and more, likely played into our difficulty in reaching additional potential Phase One auditors as well as the necessity of not gathering with groups of people.

See the attachment in this application submission, "5.5.3 Old Lyme Phase 1 audit press release" for the announcement to the community of the upcoming Phase 1 audit walk.



LymeLine article regarding the audit walk and introduction to Sustainable Old Lyme initiative: <https://lymeline.com/2020/04/meeting-at-1pm-today-in-old-lyme-to-discuss-sustainabilityct-action-plan-new-volunteers-welcome/>

On April 25, 2020, audit participants gathered for the AARP walk and bike audit orientation/training and a discussion of the four walk and bike audit routes. One participant couldn't attend the training and received training by phone. Following the training, eight volunteers conducted their Phase One walk and bike audits between April 25 and May 10. Five of the auditors were 65 or older. Findings are shared later in this document.

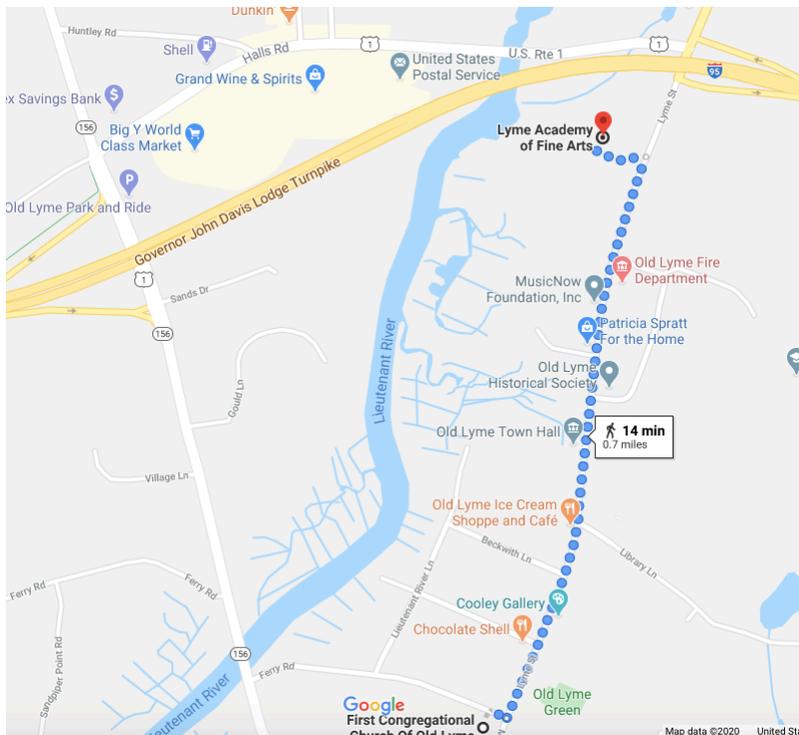
The enthusiasm of our Phase One walkers was inspirational. Their narratives were detailed and thought-provoking and we have had reports that many of them have continued with walks and bikes around town. On a cautionary side, we learned that the AARP walk audit is quite long to fill out while one is walking or standing, that the routes covered in an audit should not be too ambitious, that certain stretches of these routes may not be safe for walking, especially for walkers with disabilities. And we realized that it is difficult to maintain social distancing on group walks.

Attached to this Action submission is the AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit used in Phase 1.

Phase Two Audit

The results of the Phase One audit itself, as well as the Phase One engagement with the community, were both assessed in June 2020 as the Phase Two audit was planned. It was determined a highly-focused audit territory in a safe walking area, as well as a more robust effort to engage the community, were both needed. The challenges of COVID-19 stay-at-home orders as well as our elderly population's concerns regarding participating during their self-isolations played into our continued effort.

As part of Phase Two, we sought to further study one particular Phase One route, **Lyme Street (south of I-95)**, and to audit it for a further understanding of its accessibility for older residents and those with physical limitations.



Our Phase Two audit was conducted during July 2020, and focused on walking (not biking) the section of Lyme Street from the intersection of Lyme Street/Ferry Road to the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, approximately 7/10 of a mile. As the main artery of the Town's center village, Lyme Street is enjoyed by many people in town who like to walk. Families stroll Lyme Street, oftentimes stopping at the Ice Cream Shoppe or The Chocolate Shell; couples and friends enjoy walking and visiting the art galleries

and small shops along the way. The school's main campus is also on Lyme Street, meaning many children and adolescents also walk along the street after school. Cultural tourists to our Town enjoy following the Historical Society's walking tour of the historic buildings on Lyme Street. The public library sits at the corner of Lyme Street and Library Lane. Lyme Street serves as a Town hub, where walkers run into friends or acquaintances. Special events happen on Lyme Street throughout the year, including a Midsummer Festival, special Halloween activities, holiday tree lighting (with carolers), and a Memorial Day Parade. Garden tours and holiday house tours often include the beautiful homes on the Street. In addition to small businesses dotting the street, the Memorial Town Hall also sits at the midway point along the north/south street. Apart from off-street parking at the Town Hall and Library, all other parking is on the street. This historic street is considered best enjoyed by foot.

We decided for safety reasons to focus the Phase Two audit on a specific length of Lyme Street which has sidewalks. The west side of Lyme Street has sidewalks for its full length. The east side of Lyme Street has sidewalks in shorter lengths.

It was also decided that, due to Covid-19, we would invite residents to walk individually or with walk companions they chose, rather than a group walk which proved difficult during Phase One.

Our **community outreach effort** was broader while seeking out participants to participate in our Phase Two. Sustainable Old Lyme Team members reached out to the Senior Center, Town Hall, and faith communities in Old Lyme to engage participants to take part in the audit. At the same time, these organizations also promoted our online survey, which took place concurrently with the Phase Two audit in July. Promotion of the audit (and online survey) included a news item on the Town's website, Facebook posts, *LymeLine* (a local e-newspaper, <https://lymeline.com/2020/07/all-walkers-bikers-encouraged-to-complete-sustainable-old-lyme-%E2%80%8Bwalk-and-bike-survey/>), online church bulletins, and beach association community centers. A Sustainable Old Lyme Team member made a presentation to the Rogers Lake Association with an appeal for participants in the audit and survey. We also followed up with respondents to our online survey who wanted to be involved in future walkability issues, asking them to consider auditing Lyme Street on behalf of the Team.

The Town's Congregational Church is one of the faith communities that embraced the walking audit. Before determining we would conduct an online survey to supplement the Phase Two audit, we used "audit" and "survey" interchangeably with the public. The confusion of terminology was later clarified. The FCCOL was an important contributor to our audit promotion:

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF OLD LYME

HOME ABOUT CALENDAR COMMUNITY WORLD ADULTS YOUTH MUSIC/ARTS DONATE FINANCES

Walking Survey

Sustainable Old Lyme is a committee established four years ago under the auspices of Sustainable Connecticut, a grassroots certification program that recognizes towns and cities for their work on economic and environmental resilience. An aspect of environmental resilience that the committee is now addressing is the ability of people of all ages and abilities to walk safely along Old Lyme's many streets.

In a first step to make our town safer for and more appealing to pedestrians, Sustainable Old Lyme is focusing on the safety and appeal of Lyme Street. We've produced a two-page questionnaire that applies to the west side (Town Hall side) of Lyme Street between the FCCOL/the Town Green and the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts.

We encourage parishioners to take part in this survey – while observing social distancing protocols – in the next few weeks (deadline is July 31). Surveys are available at Town Hall (52 Lyme Street) or the vestibule at the Chocolate Shell (18 Lyme Street). Completed surveys may be returned to either of these locations.

– Patsy McCook and Tink Willauer



First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

July 8 · 🌐



LIKE TO WALK? THE FCCOL COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! Sustainable Old Lyme is a committee established four years ago under the auspices of Sustainable Connecticut, a grassroots certification program that recognizes towns and cities for their work on economic and environmental resilience. An aspect of environmental resilience that the committee is now addressing is the ability of people of all ages and abilities to walk safely along Old Lyme's many streets.

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-- Patsy McCook and Tink Willauer

Referred to here as a questionnaire and survey, this indeed is referencing the Phase 2 audit and was further shared by other Facebook users.



WALKING SURVEY

👍 6

3 Shares



Home



Walk Audits Available on Lyme Street

POSTED ON: JULY 21, 2020 - 9:22AM

If you like to walk on Lyme Street, Sustainable Old Lyme wants to hear from you. So we've published a paper audit which asks about the experience of walking along Lyme Street between the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts and the Town Green near the Congregational Church. The audit is available at Town Hall and at shops along the route. One page - 20 questions - no computers needed!

We also have an online Walk Bike Survey, which asks more general questions about your experience walking and biking in our community (not just Lyme Street). That survey is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GZW87FB>

We want to hear from everybody - but especially from those who are older or who have special needs.

For more information about Sustainable Connecticut, please visit <https://sustainablect.org/>. You can contact the organizers through that website, or you can email us at rogerslakehealth@gmail.com or walkaudit@gmail.com. In the meantime, the survey and audit will be available until the end of July.

[Contact Us](#)
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Town of Old Lyme
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(860) 434-1605

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 **Old Lyme Arts District**
Published by Cheryl Poirier · July 21 · 

 **Town of Old Lyme**
July 21 · 

Do you enjoy strolling down Lyme Street? The Old Lyme Sustainable CT Team is conducting a walk audit to gather feedback about this area of town. You can pick up a printed copy in the Town Hall or at the Chocolate Shell.

<https://www.oldlyme-ct.gov/.../walk-audits-available-lyme-str...>

 **OLDLYME-CT.GOV**
Walk Audits Available on Lyme Street | Old Lyme CT
If you like to walk on Lyme Street, Sustainable Old Lyme wants to hear from you.

108 People Reached **9** Engagements **Boost Unavailable**

 **1**

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 Comment as Old Lyme Arts District    

Learning from our Phase One participants, we edited the Phase Two pedestrian audit document to create a two-sided piece of card stock, so that walkers could easily write on it as they walked. We used a large font, and provided adequate space for auditors to make additional notes of specific concerns (such as a particular crosswalk or piece of sidewalk) on the audit form.

Again, due to Covid considerations, the card stock form was available in the common area of Town Hall, in the unlocked vestibule of The Chocolate Shell (a retail shop on Lyme Street), the Cooley Fine Art Gallery (after its Phase Two re-opening), and by PDF electronically. **A copy of the audit form is attached to this submission.**

Seventeen participants submitted their Phase Two audits of Lyme Street. Ten participants were 65 or over. Six of these participants described themselves as having special needs: Hearing impairment (2), Reliant on a walker (2), Reliant on a wheelchair (1), and one unspecified physical limitation.

Audit Findings: Lyme Street

Phase One and Phase Two audits produced the following findings for the Village section of Lyme Street:

Sidewalks

There are sidewalks all along the full length of this route (west side of Lyme Street), except in crossing streets. The sidewalk continues across driveways. The sidewalks are more than 36" wide (which ADA requires, although AARP suggests 60" for comfort of two people walking side by side) and they are bordered by grass on either side. Many sections of the sidewalk are bordered by beautiful historic trees which in some cases have caused the surrounding pavement to buckle or crack.

Our auditors' responses to sidewalk features were mixed. Participants generally agreed that the sidewalk is wide enough to enjoy. However, many found the sidewalk to be bumpy, cracked or missing pieces in some areas. These specific issues are noted in the audits. Compared to other audited features, the overall rating for the sidewalk was relatively low.

Crosswalks

There are curb ramps at cross roads and crosswalks. There are crosswalks at key locations on Lyme Street including at the Congregational Church, the Library, Center School (just north of Town Hall), the Firehouse/entrance to the High School, and the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts. Because on-street parking is allowed close to the crosswalk, the west side of the Library Lane crosswalk may be obscured to those driving south, making it difficult to see pedestrians (particularly if a person is in a

wheelchair). The crosswalk at Center School has a cone to slow traffic. The crosswalk at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts has a solar-powered flashing light button for pedestrians to alert drivers of crossing; other crosswalks on Lyme Street do not have this feature.

The crosswalks received varied responses. Two auditors raised particular concerns about children crossing Lyme Street after leaving the Library: The crosswalk at Library Lane connects to the southeast corner of Library Lane opposite the Library (northeast corner). The Library Lane and Ferry Road crosswalks also do not have southbound yellow crosswalk traffic signs as the other crosswalks do.

Curb Ramps

There are curb ramps at crosswalks and crossroads. Most of the curbs at the crosswalks have detectable surface tactiles (DSTs); but these are lacking at the Academy Lane street crossing, Maple Lane, Library Lane, and the crosswalk at Center School. The curb ramp at Beckwith Lane has a sewer drain at its base.

Bicycle Lanes

There are no off-road bicycle paths on this route. There are no off-road pedestrian paths. There are no bicycle lanes on Lyme Street, but there is a wide parking lane for most of the lengths of both sides of the street, often nearly fully occupied during the workweek and special events on Lyme Street. There are no shared use lanes.

Several auditors noted that a dedicated bike lane or path would be an improvement; bicyclists sometimes ride on the sidewalks.

Driver Safety

The posted speed limit on Lyme Street is 25 mph. There is one stop sign, at the corner of Lyme Street and Library Lane.

Driver safety received good ratings overall, with most participants agreeing that drivers stop at stop signs and crosswalks. The worst driver behavior was “speed limits”: Only ten participants agreed that “drivers observe speed limits” while seven said they saw drivers not obey speed limits.

Trash Receptacles

The sidewalks are generally clean and free of trash. About half the respondents think a trash receptacle is needed on this route, but the ones who disagreed took the time to make comments such as “Not needed. Walkers keep their trash” and “probably would mean more work for the town and misuse of receptacle.”

Benches

There are benches at several locations along Lyme Street, including two businesses,

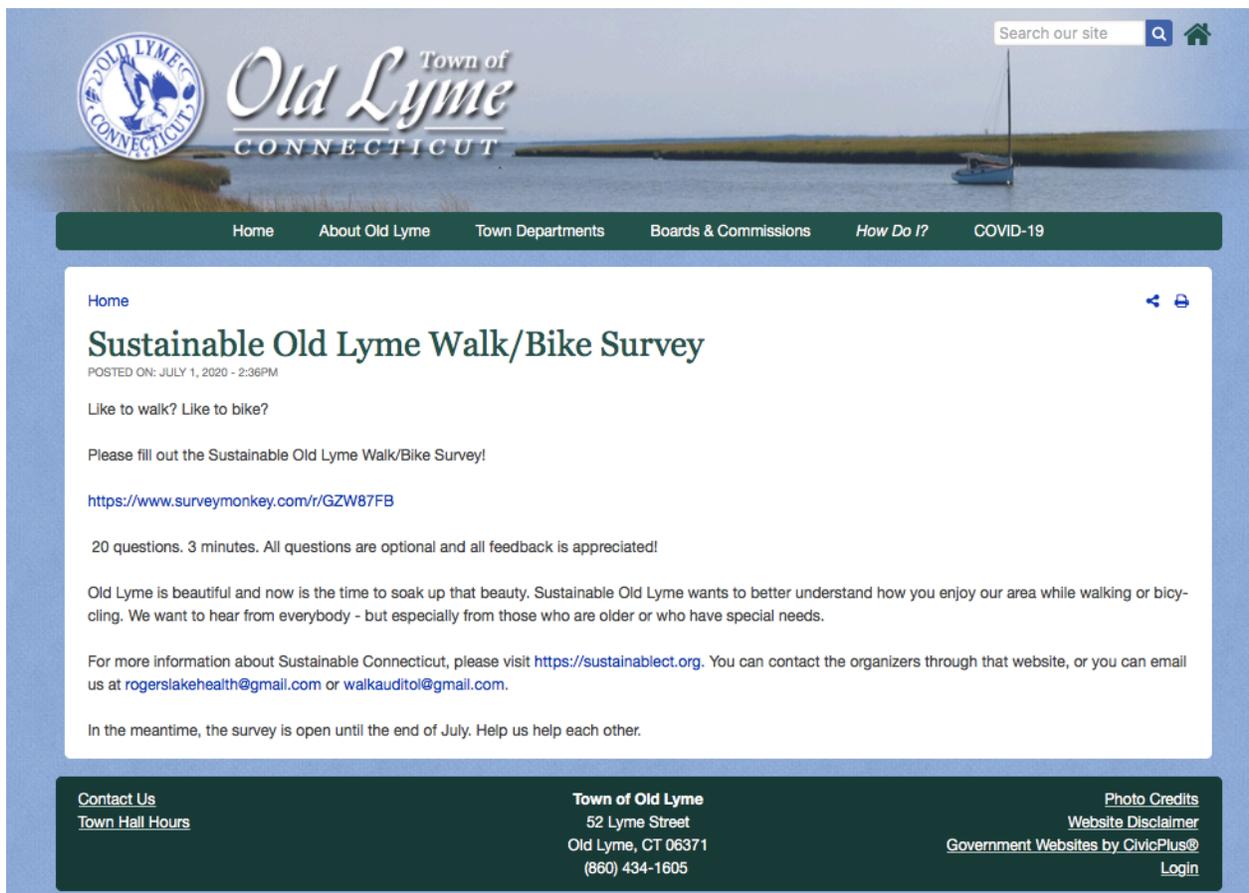
and in front of two residences, but pedestrians might believe they are for customers or house residents only. Eleven responders would prefer to have more benches, and benches in front of Town Hall would be considered “public.” One older respondent wrote “[I] need to sit down, [I have an] arthritic knee.” Another simply wrote “I get tired.”

Audit Findings: Other Phase One Locations

- Route 156 near the beaches is an attractive but dangerous walking route with no sidewalks and inconsistent shoulders. Two respondents thought Route 156 needs crosswalks (with pedestrian traffic signals) near the I-95 ramps, the McCurdy Road intersection, and Noyes Road.
- Town Woods Road and the Laysville Section of Route 1 suffer from a lack of sidewalks and inconsistent shoulders. Of the area near Rogers Lake traversing Town Woods Road, one volunteer wrote “*This would be an excellent spot for a crosswalk!*”

Online Survey Findings

As part of a larger study of walking and bicycling in Old Lyme, this audit was supplemented with a Walk/Bike Online Survey using Survey Monkey to understand where residents like to walk and how the town could become more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly. *This survey was an important conduit for residents to make additional constructive input to our recommendations to the Town regarding the walkability audit of Lyme Street.* The Survey Monkey survey was conducted during the month of July, concurrent with the Phase Two Lyme Street Audit. The online survey was beta tested the last week of June. The final survey drew 313 responses. Participants in the Survey learned about it through the Town website and social media, an email from the Senior Center, *LymeLine*, and social media posts by others in Old Lyme.



The screenshot shows the Town of Old Lyme website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area features a post titled "Sustainable Old Lyme Walk/Bike Survey" posted on July 1, 2020. The post includes a link to the survey, a description of the survey's purpose, and contact information for more details. The footer contains contact information for the Town of Old Lyme and links for photo credits, website disclaimer, and login.

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Sustainable Old Lyme Walk/Bike Survey

POSTED ON: JULY 1, 2020 - 2:36PM

Like to walk? Like to bike?

Please fill out the Sustainable Old Lyme Walk/Bike Survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GZW87FB>

20 questions. 3 minutes. All questions are optional and all feedback is appreciated!

Old Lyme is beautiful and now is the time to soak up that beauty. Sustainable Old Lyme wants to better understand how you enjoy our area while walking or bicycling. We want to hear from everybody - but especially from those who are older or who have special needs.

For more information about Sustainable Connecticut, please visit <https://sustainablect.org>. You can contact the organizers through that website, or you can email us at rogerslakehealth@gmail.com or walkauditol@gmail.com.

In the meantime, the survey is open until the end of July. Help us help each other.

Contact Us
Town Hall Hours

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52 Lyme Street
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7/2/20 Senior Center email to all members:

Dear Friends,

I am excited to announce that senior centers across Connecticut have come together to offer a free Community Activities Calendar to all of our members. I have enclosed the schedule for the week of July 6 2020 along with the information on how to sign up for each program. There is diverse range of programming from games to lectures and everything in between. So I would definitely check it out!! This calendar does not include the exercise programs that I email out to you weekly, so refer to the Lymes' Virtual Class Schedule emails for that information. This week I am also including a link to a walking and biking survey for a local group as well as a link for the Unlonely Film Festival for you all to check out. Stay Healthy and Be Well.

Like to walk? Like to bike?

Please fill out The Sustainable Old Lyme Walk Bike Survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GZW87FB>

20 questions. 3 minutes. All questions are optional and all feedback is appreciated!

Old Lyme is beautiful and now is the time to soak up that beauty. Sustainable Old Lyme wants to better understand how you enjoy our area while walking or bicycling. We want to hear from everybody - but especially from those who are older or who have special needs.

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In the meantime, the survey is open until the end of July. Help us help each other.

The analysis of the online survey findings is attached to this application submission (see “5.5.3 Old Lyme Walk/Bike Survey Monkey Results.”)

30% of respondents were 65 years or older. 20% of those 65 and over reported have a special need, with half of those being hearing impairment. Special needs listed by all survey respondents included:

- Hearing Impaired: 27.78%
- Reliant on a Cane: 5.56%
- Reliant on a Walker: 2.78%
- Other Special Need not Mentioned*: 41.67%
- No online survey respondents reported visual impairment or reliance on a wheelchair.

We sought to learn in the survey, among other things, if residents 65 years and older chose more or less frequently than other age groups to walk on Lyme Street, as opposed to other areas either in or out of Town.

One-third of the special need respondents described “village setting” as their preferred walking route. However only one-third of those preferring a village setting *actual have Lyme Street’s village setting as their most frequent route*. This may be because 75% of these special needs respondents start their walks from home, as opposed to driving to their route, and most do not live in or near the Village. It would seem further data gathering can help understand why those who prefer walking in a village setting are not choosing to walk on Lyme Street when they have a physical limitation.

* The other “Special Needs not Mentioned” included cardiac issues, knee problems, balance issues, and a bladder issue that made long walks difficult. Children were not listed in the survey prompts as a potential special need, but six respondents took the initiative to mention that walking with children was their special issue. Only two of those respondents described the Village as a preferred route, and one of them noted that

“drivers drive very quickly on Lyme Street and often whip around [the] turn near the church.”

The analysis includes the following findings:

75% of the respondents walk in Old Lyme at least a few times a week, but 70% report that they would **prefer to walk more often**. 69% of respondents start their walks from home.

About one-third of respondents often seek out **woodland trails**, and one-quarter prefer a **“village setting with sidewalks.”**

254 respondents described their most frequent walk route(s). 18% of these walks encompassed the Lyme Street Village walk audit route. Most survey respondents whose routes encompassed **Lyme Street Village** generally gave their routes good ratings.

The wish for **more safe walking routes** which include sidewalks was frequently noted, and many respondents suggested creating larger-scale walk routes. Many suggested sidewalks on the commercial Halls Road, which intersects Lyme Street. One respondent whose most frequent route includes the Lyme Street Village wrote: *“It would be nice for Halls Rd, Lyme St, and all of the town to be better “connected” with safe bike and walking trails.”* Another Village walker suggested *“Sidewalks and lighting on Halls Road so can walk from Lyme Street to Halls Road and around 156 to Ferry and back to Lyme Street.”* From another respondent with many routes: *“I long to see the village walks continue on past the LAA, Florence Griswold Museum beyond to the green at Sill Lane and further.”* and *“It would be lovely to have sidewalks at least on one side of Route 1 from Lord’s Meadow to Old Lyme Village.”*

A few respondents saw benches as a way to make the town more pedestrian-friendly. One suggested: *“An occasional bench along the more frequented routes, for those who may need a rest stop, to encourage those who presently don’t often venture out.”*

Concern for **driver and bicyclist behavior** was often cited. Parents who walk with their children were most often concerned about driver behavior. Bicycle paths were suggested by many as a way to make the town more *pedestrian-friendly*.

Many respondents think Old Lyme should become more bicycle-friendly, especially for children. *“My kids would love to ride their bikes or walk to school or to see friends.”* And, *“I think repaving roads that needed minimal repairs is a waste of taxpayer money that could have been much better spent by creating walk/bike friendly paths for residents who love our town and wish to reduce their carbon footprint.”*

Many were enthusiastic about the need for route improvement: *“People here love walking, running, biking, and nature. We have a lot of families in town. This needs to become a priority.”* But not all respondents want major changes. One wrote: *“Have better crosswalks and do not add more shopping plazas, it would add too much traffic. We moved here because it’s small and quaint.”*

 **Town of Old Lyme**
July 21 · 🌐

Do you enjoy strolling down Lyme Street? The Old Lyme Sustainable CT Team is conducting a walk audit to gather feedback about this area of town. You can pick up a printed copy in the Town Hall or at the Chocolate Shell.

<https://www.oldlyme-ct.gov/.../walk-audits-available-lyme-str...>



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Walk Audits Available on Lyme Street | Old Lyme CT
If you like to walk on Lyme Street, Sustainable Old Lyme wants to hear from you.

8 5 Comments 2 Shares

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 **Josh Thompson** While it is a pleasant part to walk, it shouldn't be the only place in town. For some people it is too far away and for others it is too short of a distance. There should be more places and ideally a nice long smooth rec path where people can walk/run/bicycle. Many towns benefit from things like this and the communities thrive in a very active and healthy lifestyle because of it. Old Lyme has a lot of physically active people but would thrive even more with a lovely rec path in town.

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 **Cheryl Poirier** Josh Thompson we want to know this too and have an online survey where you can share just that! Please take our survey. The audit is to determine how "walkable" Lyme Street is in terms of sidewalks, crosswalks, etc. But we definitely are taking a more global view! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GZW87FB>



 SURVEYMONKEY.COM
Old Lyme Walk and Bike Survey

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 **Josh Thompson** Cheryl Poirier I had completed the online survey and was subsequently sent a follow up e-mail with another survey pertaining purely to just Lyme Street.

Like · Reply · 4w

 **Kerrie Kolesnik** Josh Thompson fully agree

Like · Reply · 3w

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 **Cheryl Poirier** Josh Thompson Thank you Josh for filling out the survey! There will be other safety audits in the future, at this point the Sustainable Old Lyme team is just focused on Lyme Street as an initial audit. But point well taken, so many people in Old Lyme love to walk, run and bicycle that ensuring there are safe places to do so is important.

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*** In addition, Facebook posts about the audit and survey were also monitored for additional input.

Recommendations and Opportunities

Based on the input of numerous community members through the two audits as well as the survey, we recommend the following:

1. **The Board of Selectmen should appoint a standing Committee to review and make formal recommendations regarding walkability and bicycle safety throughout Town.** This Committee would focus solely on the feasibility of sidewalk and bicycle lanes in various areas of Town, as well as promote existing safe walking routes, including through the Town website. *The Committee should have a sensitivity to the needs of all ages who choose to walk in Old Lyme and understand the barriers to walking caused by special needs.* We are encouraging the Board of Selectmen to appoint such a Committee to address the following additional recommendations and opportunities:
 - a. Have sidewalks span the full-length of both the east and west sides of Lyme Street.
 - b. Conduct a thorough investigation of sidewalk damage to ensure walking is safe for those with walking aids such as canes or walkers, and those with balance issues. Add benches at Town Hall for pedestrians to take breaks during longer walks.
 - c. At the Library Lane crosswalk and stop sign, reconfigure parking and the crosswalk so that pedestrians on the west side of the crosswalk can be seen by southward drivers (the west side of this crosswalk is currently blocked by parked cars). This would include adding yellow curbing in front of the crosswalk to disallow parking there. Ensure crosswalk signage is posted both northbound and southbound for each crosswalk.
 - d. Assess ways to improve driver safety. Both auditors and survey respondents who walked in the village were concerned about driver behavior.
3. **Create and Suggest Walking Routes for Residents**
 - a. Add sidewalks to streets that can complete a walking loop with Lyme Street: Halls Road, Ferry Road, and possibly Route 1 towards Sill Lane, or Library Lane towards the Champlain Trail head. As always, ensure ADA requirements are followed.
 - b. Continue to work with the State to make Route 156 more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly (a Connectivity Grant is currently underway there).
 - c. Create a map with walking distances and features. Work with the Open Space Commission and the Old Lyme Land Trust to integrate trail maps with town walking maps. This would be posted on the Town's website and could be mobile/phone compatible.
 - d. Add benches to make particular walking routes more attractive.

4. Address the Need for Added Crosswalks, Pedestrian Signal Lights or Stop Signs throughout Town.

- 5. Improve Bicyclist Safety throughout Town.** Many respondents wrote extensively about the need for better bicycle routes in Old Lyme. This is a serious concern for many in the community. Any long-term planning that involves expenditures should take this desire into account and, at the very least, not spend money on projects that would make it difficult to create bike lanes in the future. It is possible that some might contribute to private funds for dedicated bicycle lanes. Seek future Connectivity Grants.

Many respondents want Old Lyme to be more bicycle-friendly for their children. Since the Old Lyme school experience is an important focus of the Town, carbon-free transportation to and from school should be considered.

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The Sustainable Old Lyme Team looks forward to presenting its full set of findings and sharing opportunities identified to various boards and commissions in town, including the Board of Selectmen, Halls Road Improvement Committee, the Open Space Commission, the Conservation Commission and the Public Works Department.