



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JAMIE BURKE, CHAIR
SHEILA FAY
TOM FLOROS
JESSE HAMMOND
AMY PLOVNIK
HANNAH RAKOFF
MARIA SAIZ
JENNY WANG

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday April 1, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Jamie Burke (chair), Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Amy Plovnick, Hannah Rakoff, Maria Saiz, Tom Floros, Jenny Wang; Zeke Mermell (staff), James McDermott (intern); visitors: Scott Frazer, Becky, Sarah

A. Acceptance of minutes of March 11, 2024, meeting.

B. Working Groups discussions

1. **Bike Parking** documents' progress, presentation & next steps (including request for review in April & special meeting in May): James presentation, will be sent to all of us: we will get a table to enter our comments, and James will compile all the comments to update the document.
 - Bike parking regulations to be updated because easy way to increase bicycling.
 - No longer linking # bike parking to # car parking required, specifying allowable & inappropriate racks, requirements that racks must meet to be allowable, and ways to accommodate with different types of bikes.
 - By Wed 4/3 will get draft in PDF form, numbered, put comments by 4/15 11:59pm so James can work on it.
 - Will review in special committee meeting in May because too many other things on May regular meeting.
 - When James sends document out, will also send doodle link as well for when could schedule the meeting. Please do that ASAP.
 - Thanks to James for all he has done for this project, able to move along much faster.
 - How this will fit into Watertown Sq redevelopment, so they don't contradict: keeping that in mind but not resolved yet.
2. Cuniff School streets (Warren St & Cleveland Rd) update
 - Tom, Zeke, Gideon and 2 DPW members met at the area:
 - DPW looking at update parking signs – not near raised cross walk
 - Sight lines not great at Cleveland St: will cut bushes
 - Suggested to paint Ts to indicate parking vs travel lanes, to help slow drivers
 - Potentially hash excess areas near raised crosswalk – to not drive there
 - Won't do bollards due to damage to plows/cars

- Potential add stop sign, but typically don't add to end of residential roads. We can submit a request for one.
- DPW very helpful. Tom wants to continue conversation with Traffic Commission to discuss intersections in west end: too sweeping & encourages speeding.
- On Cleveland Rd no curbs but ways to request removal of asphalt and have put in grass
- Can we encourage redo of the road because so close to the school and used so much for pick up & drop off.
- Plastic kid signs show interest in desire for residents to slow traffic. State doesn't support using paint on streets in bump outs as in some areas, so DPW needs to follow state.

C. Takeaways & initial responses from City Manager meet & greet, and Traffic Commission representative/initiative & next steps/meetings

- Feedback: felt City Manager was very positive and supportive of bike & ped issues.
- Traffic Commission rep: Zeke: still at same point: brought up at City Council, brought to sub-committee to discuss. Not sure if has happened yet. City giving space for input from lots of people. If sub-comm decides to move forward will go to full Council where people can give more input. Not sure when all this will happen.
- Next steps: would be great to have City Manager back again annually? Jamie sent a short thank you note, and suggest send one from committee and invite him to attend again in future.
- Amy: one of George's priorities is Climate Plan, and we can help with that. Also we can help with implementing snow shoveling – maybe in the fall.
- Sheila: suggestion that we do a presentation to the City Council sometime this year. Maria thought it was part of our charter. Maybe do in the fall. Zeke to reach out to staff support and get that on the schedule.

D. Bike-Ped Committee size, potential expansion and alternatives (including regarding coverage at events); what are the next steps that Committee wants, and other options aside from Committee size? George suggested some other options:

- If going forward to expand: need to vote on it: go to Council – have to have input from public, then voted on. If have more members then quorum becomes more difficult.
- Have associate/non-voting members: able to help with events.
- Continue as we are and ask other people who attend to assist.
- If we need other people to assist, what would be involved? Could they voice their opinions, etc., but just not vote? Q is how these fit into Open Meetings regs? Zeke will look into this. Issue may be that if we open meetings to public, could it be an issue about public comments? Laura used to add members of the public to email list if interested. Zeke has that list and could send out the notices. Would be great if agenda could be sent to them and us.
- Could we have working Associate Members, and become pool for vacancies? Or only be member for specific events? Zeke will find out more about this as a possibility and how public can participate in terms of Open Meetings and bring back to discuss.

E. Bike-Ped Committee advertisement on filling vacancy; updates and Committee's preferences

- Vacancy: have had interest and application from Becky. Zeke says going through with Resident's Advisory Committee. If feel any gap in committee give Zeke the feedback.
- Timeline: Zeke will get back to us on when applications are due and meetings will happen. Get feedback in to Zeke soon.
- Good to try to get someone in by July because Jamie will be out then and becomes issue with getting quorum.

F. Committee events and collaboration with City, Live Well Watertown & Watertown Transportation Management Association: Get Out Your Bike, Yard Art and Bike Porchfest

- Get Out Bike Event: May 4, rain 5/5 - Sophia book Urban Adventures bike mechanics. 1-3pm. FU meetings to set up logistics. James has worked on some handouts, and will send out email about them. Jamie will send any info about follow up meetings
- Porch Fest collaboration: Jamie will meet with them about maybe a Walk to Porch Fest. Update at next meeting.
- Yard Art: Sheila looking at map and looking to create the route. Not as many locations so may have to be from City Hall and circle from there. Time still to be determined.

G. Watertown Square Area Plan updates & Public Forum info; planning Committee feedback: potential May in-person Committee workshop (May 2023 special meeting)

- Look at plans in person at next meeting and make comments.
- Next public meeting 4/4: will see design concept, see how get from options to one vision. Comment cards. Will be about transportation network, but also housing will important. Come & share individual perspectives. If can't attend live or stream, input form on the website. Really want everyone's feedback so make sure to check website.

www.watertownsquareimprovements.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- i. 5/6/24: Next Bike-Ped Committee Meeting
- ii. 4/4/24: Watertown Square Area Plan Public Forum
- iii. April and May: collaborative events with LWW, City events, Yard Art, etc., including Get Out Your Bike event on 5/4/24