



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday May 6, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

Present: Jamie Burke (chair), Jesse Hammond, Amy Plovnick, Hannah Rakoff, Maria Saiz, Tom Floros, Jenny Wang; Zeke Mermell, Gideon Schreiber (staff); public/visitors: Ed Marcus, Shanta Keller; Absent: Sheila Fay

- Motion to accept old meeting minutes: Jenny, Jesse
- Bike parking working group:
 - Met two weeks ago (Maria, Hannah; staff support: Zeke, James)
 - Next step is staff input from the City
 - Post-City comments and special committee will review updated doc
 - Gideon - Once Bike Parking draft is moved forward (after Bike-Ped Cmte) it is brought to Planning and Zoning depts, City Council gets it on their first reading and then would appoint/send to the Planning Board, who would then recommend the zoning amendment to City Council.
 - Will have another special meeting planned for June timeframe (Zeke to send poll by 05/07 COB, committee to respond by 05/10 COB) - should be planned in person.
 - Zeke to confirm about Public Access to meeting
 - June 3 is next regular committee meeting
 - Can be planned as a special meeting following June 3 (queued in regular meeting expecting it to be an additional meeting, but can be canceled)
 - City to figure out about potential June 3 conflict
 - Comments should be sent to Zeke prior to meeting
- YardArt was only Bike and Ped Committee -
 - Low turnout we should prioritize more resources on this next year
 - Ask Sheila to share routes she has made before to then discuss with YardArt committee
 - City Hall was a more natural starting spot - should always have starting point and starting time defined early

- YardArt turnout was lower overall
 - Plan to have route published two weeks prior
 - Plan to have two members helping plan
 - Aim for the third week of April next year (maybe coincide with Earth Day?)
- Get Out Your Bike
 - Really well attended 10-15 people interested in coming to meetings or getting involved
 - Bike check got at least 25-30 people
 - Tent over table worked great - Stephanie
 - Lessons Learned from event planning
 - Should have playbook on event management (tent planning, deadlines)
- PorchFest
 - Talked with Matt from Porchfest
 - Printed a map for biking around the Porchfest
 - Add in visual scale from Google Maps - Jamie
 - Ask about adding Date
 - Table to think about connecting with BlueBike about giving out free passes
 - Zeke to talk and coordinate with them (perhaps even YardArt, Faire on the Square)
 - They did do a promo super late a few years ago, but it did not get much traction
- Traffic Commission
 - Meeting is tomorrow 05/07 for council sub-committee for public safety to review
 - Open to public
 - If voted on would go back to the main city council
 - Other facets to the motion would be to allow them to elect their chair
- Bike & Ped Committee Meeting Size
 - Path forward on associate members (non-voting members similar to the ZBA and Planning Board which are defined by state law), not common - volunteers can participate and help, but not vote
 - Talk about later - continue this next meeting in June
 - Any issues with us having associate members? Not defined, we would need to define it.
 - How to better engage the public? It has been hard to have consistent public engagement/volunteers - discuss in June meeting
 - Quorum: if we feel like we can't make quorum then it could be a challenge to increase our committee size (then more people will be needed for quorum)
- Filling Vacancy
 - Interviews happened a few days ago, City Manager appoints through recommendations from Residents Advisory Committee
- Watertown Square
 - Update/recap from public feedback
 - Paths/desire lines with grade separated bike lanes
 - Bus shelters

- Need to set our standards for bike lanes
 - What happens with further north on Mount Auburn Street?
 - Connections to West End as study area extends off Main St to Lexington St
 - When will this be finalized? Next step is public hearing.
- New Business
- Public Comment
 - Ed - Morse Street
 - Ed said old street has not been adjusted to modern times, people use it to cut through, trucks moving fast.
 - Ed said there's issues with the corner turn with the telephone pole.