



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JAMIE BURKE, CHAIR
SHEILA FAY
TOM FLOROS (Interim Chair)
JESSE HAMMOND
SHANTA KELLER
AMY PLOVNIK
HANNAH RAKOFF
MARIA SAIZ
JENNY WANG

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday July 1, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Tom Floros (interim chair), Sheila Fay, Hannah Rakoff, Maria Saiz, Jenny Wang, Shanta Keller, Zeke Mermell (staff); Not present: Jamie Burke, Jesse Hammond, Amy Plovnick; visitors: Eileen Botti, Sophia Galimore (Watertown TMA), Becky Lin

1. Acceptance of minutes of June 3, 2024, meeting
2. Working Group discussion: Bike Parking Guidelines update: no updates since last meeting.
3. Events planning:
 - a. Farmer's Market: 7/31: any initiatives for pedestrians. Tom suggested one idea: acting as crossing guards for Farmers' Market – at Main St & Whites Ave. What are city requirements for crossing guards? What other safety issues should we know? Schedule: Jenny 2:30pm, Sheila 2:30-3:30, Jesse: 3:30, Shanta: 4:30, Amy: 4:30 or 5
 - b. Faire on the Square: Sheila will write up list of info we need to do, Jenny & Tom to do the planning. Zeke will loop subgroup to organizer: Tammy. Discussion on open meeting requirements: have to post the subgroup time and meeting time, post agenda 48hrs ahead. Does the meeting have to be accessible to public? Yes.
 - c. Metz Day: Tom emailed with organizer, he couldn't attend today. Sometime mid-October. Table for further meeting.
 - d. Family Bike Ride: 8/3: promote at Farmer's Market.
 - e. Watertown Arts Market: set up and break down the bike racks at the Market. Set up times at next meeting.
4. Safe Routes to School (esp. Cuniff School): Frank Cacia wants to start a conversation about setting up some good routes. Not clear what the specifics are. Jeannette – former bike committee member, did a lot with SRTS for Lowell School. Tom will reach out to her. Zeke in conversation with MassDOT SRTS rep for this area who could be a good resource.
5. Traffic Commission (TC) amendment: City Council approved expansion of TC, but not directly someone from WBPC. Not clear when it will be open to applications. But noted it is unusual to be on more than 1 commission/committee, so might not be able to do both.

6. WBPC size: possible ideas- add 2 new members, to increase other voices. Would have to go through approval process, possibly Council voting. Or alternatives: question whether voting or not voting. Would it need to be voted on? Big issue: how to engage public more and increase assistance on events. Raises quorum question. What is the purpose to have more people? If need more people to help with events, does it make more sense to have mailing list of friends? Zeke sending out a list with agenda and tidbits already and can keep growing it. For now: focus on outreach and get people more involved. Possibly have meeting another time in very public time?
7. WBPC updates to website – Tom will update and run by us, then pass on to City representative.
8. Planning WBPC update to City Council in November – in person. Zeke will send out date.
9. Coordination with DPW: potential meet & greet with City Engineer Tyler Glode. Meeting in November: Sheila raised issue because City Council presentation, so Zeke will check if he can come to December meeting instead.
10. Watertown Square Area Plan update: meeting last Thursday of City Council and Planning Committee asked a lot of questions of City. Next meeting 7/16– Council/Board vote will happen on the Plan itself.
11. Next in person meeting: possibly November? Jaime would be back. But issues with day because of election and Veteran's Day that next Monday. So instead meet in person 10/7. Voted yes. City Council meeting 11/12. So meet 11/18 via Zoom to debrief as the November meeting.
12. August meeting – projected to have quorum – 5 members available. Tom will work with Zeke to start to compile a list of things to present to City Council.
13. New items:
 - a. 2 cycling deaths in Cambridge – both were right hook turns. Cambridge will do in depth review of these dangerous intersections. Can we get connected to their info so we can apply their learnings to redo Mt Auburn St? Tom will reach out to Cambridge councilors he knows to try to get info. One potential problem area: Mt Auburn/Belmont St. Zeke has info on crash data for Watertown. Maria mentioned that Andy did an application that showed all the crash data on a map.
 - b. Hannah: heard from a neighbor about getting a new crosswalk. Was told by City that couldn't get it because would take too many parking spaces. Need to deal with City department culture to support multi-modal transportation.
 - c. Zeke: Sophia will be with us at Farmer's Market. Also rep from Bluebikes outreach team there.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

8/5/24 7:30pm Bike-Ped Committee Meeting via Zoom

Wednesdays through October: Farmers Markets 7/31: Committee & partners