



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met in person on **Monday June 3, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Jamie Burke (chair), Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Amy Plovnick, Hannah Rakoff, Maria Saiz, Tom Floros Zeke Mermell (staff support); absent: Jenny Wang, Shanta Keller; visitors: Eileen Botti

A. Acceptance of minutes of May 6, 2024, meeting

B. Events debrief and planning

- i. Bike Porchfest debrief - Jaime sent map, organizers posted; event went well.
- ii. Farmers Market (June-October; pick date for tabling): Zeke will connect with Stephanie Venizelos to see about tabling with Watertown TMA and to ask which dates are available in July/August. Also ask to add bike parking to info about the Farmer's Market.
- iii. Faire on the Square (September; establish a planning subcommittee): Sheila write up tasks from last year. Zeke reached out to organizer Tammy regarding whether we have a table. Sheila also to talk to Arts Market regarding bike parking.
- iv. Connecting with Bluebikes on events outreach & bike passes (Farmers Market, Faire): Zeke talked to Bluebikes – their outreach team can staff an event & have a table, literature, etc. at an event. Not talked yet about free passes. Good to be at Farmer's Market when Bluebikes are there, check on dates.
- v. Metz Day (Gore Place contact) – plan a historical ride, on Charles Metz day event – do a ride to Gore Place. Our role- join ride and/or have a table at Gore Place. Gore would organize the event. Jamie responded and said we'd like to hear more; Committee is interested. Bike Map: some routes to bike through Gore Place.

C. Bike-Ped Committee members update

- i. Jamie Burke on temporary leave through October; Tom Floros as interim chair - also got into school at Dartmouth, but still based in Watertown.
- ii. Filled vacancy: Shanta Keller (a structural engineer), was a visitor at last meeting, but away this month.

D. Traffic Commission proposal: milestones, changes, next steps since last Bike-Ped Committee meeting; BPC visibility. Got revised in Council Subcommittee, so not dedicated spot for BPC member. But concerns made that we were a special interest group, and issues about members of one

committee automatically serving on another committee. There will be 3 residents on the Commission. Might want to update our website. Zeke can work with Jean Ostroff to update the site. Committee to do an update to the Council in November. Zeke also coordinating more with DPW.

E. Bike/Ped Committee Size (potential expansion & alternatives)

- i. Path forward on how/if BPC might want to expand (& by how much): Possible proposal to have all committees approved by City Council, may affect how we could expand.
- ii. Engaging the public and volunteers
- iii. Update on BPC appointment process and potential direction considerations

F. Family Bike Ride / guest presentation Paul Morgan: ride on Aug 3, 9:30am from Cambridge to Filippello Park. Has Licensing approval. About 300 people, about half children. Would like a local ice cream vendor name and suggestion for after-event venue. Have a table for WBPC? We could promote the ride at the Farmer's Market. Rain date – no date but could be figured out closer to date.

G. Bike Parking Guidelines session

- i. Working group report: includes comments made by Committee members. James McDermott & Zeke pulled it together to this version. Can vote to move forward, or vote to send Maria & Hannah to work it some more. Steps: brought to Planning & Zoning for staff reporting to Council; City Council gets 1st reading; Council sends to Planning Board, who then would recommend a zoning amendment to Council.
- ii. Committee review and deliberation of version with staff comments: Zeke- City staff feedback: thanks to Hannah, Maria & James for work done on it. Our comments added, then staff comments added. Tom mentioned one-off comment. The largest focus was table about bike parking minimums. One change: Fitness would be folded into Commercial use. Schools are exempt from certain regulations – so 'recommends,' not 'requires.' For Industrial – moved Self-storage from Light Industrial to Industrial. Distribution center: UPS – grandfathered in due to years already here. Requirements apply to new development. Ordinance will have more of requirements language. Mixed use space: Zeke thinks would be divided by use. What happens when businesses go into an established space – Zeke will check. Also, why does research lab have a lower requirement than office? Added materials of bike racks. Snow: not have to clear racks if business is closed next day. Look at business sidewalk clearing ordinance. When installing in public right of way or plazas, DPW is to be consulted. Table 1 gives dimensions for spaces, but Hannah suggested to be more descriptive of row & column headers, with images nearby.
- iii. Voting on next steps: Unanimous vote to accept the comments and send forward to Planning.

H. Member items/New business

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- i. 7/1/24: Next Bike-Ped Committee Meeting
- ii. 6/12/24: Farmers Market opening day
- iii. 6/13/24: Watertown Square Area Plan public hearing
- iv. 6/18/24: Developers Conference: public meeting on developments