



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 August 5, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Tom Floros (interim chair) Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Maria Saiz, Shanta Keller, Amy Plovnick, Jenny Wang, Zeke Mermell (staff), Not present: Jamie Burke, Hannah Rakoff. Visitors: Stephen DeCamp, Becky Lin, Gavin Kleespies (Gore Place)

1. Acceptance of minutes of July 1, 2024, meeting: so moved and accepted.
2. Working Group discussions:
 - a. Faire on the Square: Jenny & Zeke met with Tammy about bike/ped access. Asked Blue Bikes if they can bring extra stations. Messaged Stephanie Venizelos about getting a tent. Early enough to get good publicity. Bring own lock. Do a raffle? – but possible issue regarding accepting donations from local business. Zeke: because committee is official City board, can't receive donation due to regulations. Will ask Stephanie to see how the Wellness program gives swag for events. Do sidewalk chalk pointing towards Faire. Bring leftover pants bands. Maybe have a sticker for Faire: "I Walked Here, I Biked Here." Tom will look into this with Zeke.
 - b. BPC website updating: Tom will work on it Wednesday, review at September meeting, then run by City for approval.
 - c. Bike Parking guidelines: thank you to Hannah & Maria for spearheading it. They dovetail with Watertown Sq planning.
3. Events:
 - a. Farmer's market debrief: good outreach. 10 names of people interested in Committee info, including Stephen here tonight. Bike maintenance tent: numbers small. Talked to Stephanie who has some ideas about how to get more people there. Several other transportation tables there. Good number of people talking with us, especially about projects going on, especially about Mt Auburn St. Might be a good idea to have a handout with info on project info, what changes happening/details. Map on the table really big talking point, interactive. Maybe have it laminated so people could show their routes, and show where problem and good areas. Send ideas to Amy for list of ongoing projects to give out at Faire, then go to Tom to run by City IT group.
 - b. Connecting with Bluebikes: connected re: Faire, when hears back from them will report in for us. They had a table at Farmers Market – good outreach. Might have passes for free tryout.

- c. Family Bike Ride: Amy was there. About 100 people there. Arlington/Nichols intersection not great, especially getting into Filippello Park. Would be good to talk with DPW about how to get better access from Greenway. Intersection has a host of problems for walkers & bikers. Too wide, should be addressed soon. Next meeting start thinking up areas that have safety issues, so we can get list of concerns together for meeting with DPW. Use Complete Streets prioritization plan as part.
 - d. Metz Day: Gavin Kleespies works for Gore Place. In 1911 purchased by Charles Metz: innovator & inventor, including for bicycles and later automobiles, also made Gore Place an plane innovation site. Thought would be great to do a bike ride/tour as part of events for Metz Day. Event will be next June, but could do bike tour whenever we want. Or we could just do publicity and have a table. Sheila & Jenny interested in planning something. Library & Historical Society also involved.
 - e. Watertown Arts Market: 8/17/24, Sheila coordinated with Arts organizer. DPW will drop off & return the racks. 2 set up racks at Market. Sheila will set up & break down.
 - f. MAPC: "Watertown Connections" bike ride: Landline Greenway series: 8/6 4pm, meet near Sofra's, will be talking about many projects. Go toward Waltham & Newton. End at Arsenal Yards. If raining may be cancelled. Zeke will email all info to us. Good time to give input on Arlington St intersection. Should go till around 6:30pm. Not sure how get on the email list of the rides.
3. Safe Routes to School:
 - a. Reached out to Frank, hasn't heard back. Tom wants to have conversation before school
 - b. 8/12/24 WFPL event 8/12 4pm: Bike Safety Session for kids 8-11- info about getting ready for Safe Routes. Zeke will send out the flyer to all of us.
 4. WBPC update at City Council meeting: invite to present at 11/12/24 meeting. As we get closer, send the presentation to City so it can be distributed. May get postponed if lots of events take up agenda. Maria: suggesting might need more time to get this organized, suggesting do it in January 2025. Zeke has old presentations. Have on next month's agenda see how far we get, decide if can do for November.
 5. DPW meet & greet with City Engineer Tyler Globe 12/2/24 meeting. Put together list of issues want to discuss: intersections, letter sent to DPW.
 6. Complete Streets Working Group: working with DPW, City will roll out a plan in the fall. Committee will have a seat at the table: in the past was Andy as chair. Jamie or Tom voted in by WBPC, will reach out to Jamie upon her return.
 7. Traffic Commission's 2 vacancies: anyone can apply. Typically people are selected to be on 2 committees. Send out to anyone we know who would be interested.
 8. Open Meetings: new email address to Cc in email messages: Zeke will send to all of us.
 9. WBPC logos & banners – not everyone has seen, so will send out in email, talk about it next meeting. Logo was requested for event coming up.
 10. Watertown Square Area Plan: City staff focused on zoning regulations creation to be voted on.

11. Arsenal Park improvements: talk next meeting
12. Should we have a meet & greet with Public Engagement Specialist Tyler Cote? Given what is on the agenda, maybe meet later on. But important to talk with him about enforcement of snow removal ordinance. Discuss in September.
13. Documentary screening – push off to next month
14. Jesse Hammond: this will be last meeting as full-fledged member, since lots of interest from others, feels like good time to step back. Many thanks for all he has done for the Committee.
15. No new business

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 9/9/24: Next Bike-Ped Committee Meeting
- 8/6/24: Watertown Connections MAPC Greenway Ride
- 8/17/24: Watertown Arts Market
- Wednesdays through October: Farmers Market