



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met in person on **Monday October 28, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Hannah Rakoff (acting chair) Sheila Fay, Maria Saiz, Eileen Botti, Shanta Keller (online), Amy Plovnick, Jenny Wang, Zeke Mermell (staff). Not present: Jamie Burke, Tom Floros.

1. Acceptance of September 9, 2024, minutes: so moved & accepted
2. Working Group discussions:
 - a. WBPC website updating: Zeke suggested holding off until Tom attends.
 - b. Bike Parking Guidelines: Zeke has tweaked document from Working Group, put into Watertown Square planning amendment. Worked on internally as ordinance text & guidelines part of zoning meetings, to be implemented as part of Watertown Square improvements. Then will be available for use in other parts of the City. Hopefully Watertown Square version will be approved by end of the year. Zeke will check on procedures for implementing for rest of the city.
3. Introductions with new member Eileen Botti: multi-modal planner for MBTA.
4. Events: Faire on the Square debrief: went well except for rain. Still had some cyclists using the racks. Set up 2 when it got busier. Would be helpful to have pictures about how to put bikes on them. Faire publicity was very good on encouraging people to bike. Having the tent was key. Lots of people came to the table to talk, both bikers & pedestrians. Tammy McKenna is enthusiastic about working with us for future events. Bike racks are a good way to collaborate. Re: Commander's Mansion – possibly have several there for them to use at events. Sheila contact her about having 2 at the Mansion.
5. DPW Coordination for future meet & greet: December meeting will be in person, meet & greet with DPW City Engineer Tyler Glode. At November BPC meeting want us to list of types of items want to be involved with, and how to have ongoing collaboration. Great opportunity. Zeke to check in with Tyler asking if there is anything he wants us to discuss/cover. Ongoing collaboration: possibly invite them to present to us regularly.
6. WBPC presentation to City Council: likely to be 1/28/2025 Council meeting, Working Group update (Sheila): group put together a short PowerPoint of who we are, what we have done

since last meeting; and what we want to work on going forward. Come up with 3 major priorities. Need to think about strategies that are important. Who we are is a multi-modal transportation group, and use that to drive our priorities. Have an appendix of documents/studies that illustrate our points. Group will meet to put list of items into the draft buckets. Any suggestions, send to Zeke.

7. WBPC branding: 2 questions: do we want text on it? Do we want the frame on it? Does City have standards on design? We approve adding Committee to the logo. Zeke had talked about this with City. We are able to brand ourselves as we want right now. Need several variants of the logo. Jenny authorized by committee to talk with City communications team to make sure it works.
8. Punt the snow removal ordinance enforcement discussion to November. Zeke: talked to Tyler Cote (Public Engagement Specialist). We authorized Zeke to connect Amy with Tyler to discuss enforcement and invite Tyler to a meeting in February.
9. Introducing Safe Streets for All grant award: City won grant from USDOT for ~\$800,000, includes state/local match. 3 parts: Safe Systems education, speed limit study (does it make sense to change speed limits), and quick-build on N Beacon St and Watertown St. Ramp up over the next few months and years. Announcement/post with info on City website. Will include WBPC in future.
10. Traffic Commission: wait until Tom is back; mostly information about what Traffic Commission is and what they do, who they are.
11. New items: Shanta- new playgrounds able to add input about crosswalks, so how we can make comments on City projects. Ties into a priority for next year.

Upcoming Events: next meeting: 11/18/24: remote; in person in December