



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JAMIE BURKE, CHAIR
EILEEN BOTTI
SHEILA FAY
TOM FLOROS
SHANTA KELLER
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HANNAH RAKOFF
MARIA SAIZ
JENNY WANG

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met hybrid on **Monday March 3, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.**

Present: Jamie, Sheila, Maria, Eileen, Jenny, Hannah & Shanta; Zeke Mermell (staff); Visitors: Michael Cutillo, Rebecca Lin; Not present: Amy, Tom.

A. **Acceptance of February 3, 2025, minutes:** so moved and accepted.

B. Working Groups discussions:

- i. Council presentation update, progress & preparations for upcoming Council meeting: on for 3/25/25 in Council Chambers; 15 minute presentation then w/ questions & answers (Q&A) session; Zeke to check what time we are on. Jenny presented her slides and explained the different ones. Need images – send to Zeke. Zeke might have images from Comprehensive Plan. Eileen showed the resources handout, with lots of data, will be given as handout to Council. Working Group meeting will be on 3/11/25; the agenda for that meeting was already posted. Motion passed for Working Group to decide presenters.
- ii. WBPC branding/logos: Jenny showed options. Accepted option 8a as new logo. Jenny will create document with formats. Zeke will find out what budget we have for publications for events. Zeke will send branding to City departments for them to use as needed.
- iii. Live Well Watertown collaboration (share dates for Get Out Your Bike event & debrief from meeting): Jamie, Jenny & Zeke met with Stephanie & Dominica (Live Well) and Sophia Galimore (Watertown TMA), regarding Get Out Your Bike event. Bike mechanics will be there. Possible 2025 dates: May 17/18 or 5/31 / 6/1. Waiting on the mechanics for date. Also discussed possible Adult Bike class, waiting to see if can run. Let Zeke/Jamie know availability to help.

C. **Events that the Bike-Ped Committee would be at** (e.g. Watertown Pride, EcoFest), including portable bike racks (incl. collaborating with Watertown Events director), tabling, etc. Tammy McKenna suggested 2025 dates for manned bike stations:

- i. May 10: Sustainability Fair; June 1: Pride; Sept 13: Faire on the Square; Oct 4: Touch-a-Truck; Watertown Arts Market in August (not a City sponsored event).

D. **YardArt:** WBPC organizing a bicycle ride- picking a date & time (and rain date): Sheila to help organize route, date: 4/13/25, rain date 4/27/25

- E. **Follow-up discussion on meet & greet** with Tyler Cote (Public Engagement Specialist) and potential discussion of upcoming meet & greets: would be helpful to get update on snow shoveling warnings from this winter. Can snow shoveling info be sent out with trash calendar? Meet & Greet w/ Laurel Schwab (City resilience staff) – possibly in April? Michelle Moon – Open Space Planner – figure out a time.
- F. **Traffic Commission and other entities' openings** (for informational purposes): Traffic Commission opening still available, feel free to apply. Zeke has been attending, very interesting. Watertown Civic Academy: great way to learn the mechanics of City government. Priority: people not on committees. Watertown Community Conversations facilitation training is this weekend.
- G. **Willow Park redevelopment project Chapter 40B Call for Comments**: for affordable housing; send in comments by 3/20/25. Maria had comments from developer's conference: racks proposed were wall racks – hard to use. Also e-bikes not being planned for. Lighting is an issue, no short-term bike parking, and wayfinding. Near Nichols/Arlington St intersection where there have been crashes. An issue because new development will have more people. We can also add comments.
- H. **New developments**: 75 Spring St – no current bike parking for 4 & 5-unit developments, but more seem to be in planning, so we need to relook at bike parking requirements for these developments.
- I. **Introducing Watertown's Mobility/Transit Study and WBPC's ways to get involved/input** (including upcoming stakeholder group session): City hired Stantec to do a study looking at mobility/transit. In 1 to 2 months there will be a stakeholder group session. Would be great if WBPC could be at group meeting. Zeke will keep us informed.
- J. **Member items/New business**: Amy raised talking about Nichols/Arlington intersection at a future meeting. Any projects planned around there?
- K. **UPCOMING EVENTS**:
 - i. 4/7/25: Next Bike-Ped Committee Meeting
 - ii. Throughout April 2025: YardArt Watertown- www.mosesianarts.org/yardart
 - iii. 5/17/25: Watertown Porchfest- www.watertownporchfest.org
 - iv. TBD in May or June 2025: Get Out Your Bike