



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

MEETING MINUTES

Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee met Monday April 7, 2025, 7:30 pm remotely on Zoom. Present: Jamie, Sheila, Maria, Eileen, Jenny, Hannah & Shanta; Zeke Mermell (staff), Visitor: Rebecca Lin.

Minutes from March 3, 2025 minutes moved and accepted.

Working Groups:

- Yard Art: Sheila has mapped out route, issue is rain. Will check with Watertown Police and Liz Helfer on when cancellation/postponement needs to go out.
- Get Out Your Bike (GOYB): will be 5/31/25 at Watertown Square Waterfront; bookmobile and bike mechanic minor fix station will be there. 10am-Noon. Amy, possibly Shanta, Sheila are available to be there; Zeke for staff support.
- Live Well Watertown / WBPC Collaboration Working Group meeting: Jamie, Amy and Jenny will work out being there, working out details on GOYB.
- Full presence with portable bike racks and table at Eco Fest and Faire in the Square, other events just to have racks.
- Porchfest: Jamie will reach out to Matt about a possible bike route.

Discussion on upcoming bike ride events, people have reached out to Zeke & Jamie:

- Bike to Work Day (Boston): Friday May 16th. Ride from Needham through Newton & Watertown, into Boston. Bike Newton will lead.
- Paul Revere bike ride event: Saturday May 17th, re-enacting his ride. Self-supported with no designated routes, to Concord Museum. Festival at 11:30am. Zeke will send flyer.
- Kittie Knox Bike Ride: May 18; register via MassBike, \$10 or volunteer, starts at Mt Auburn Cem.

Facebook page question: is anyone still managing it? Is Jessie Hammond still involved? Jamie will check with him about posting these events.

WBPC's City Council presentation debrief:

- Mentioned in a few newsletters. 3 debriefings: 1. Councilors interested & knowing about ped/ bike infrastructure; 2. Community Path transition across Main St. Councilor Piccirilli may have brought this up. Shanta is very interested in this point. Zeke to see if WBPC can be connected to Councilor on this; 3. Safe Routes to School: interested in that and bike parking at the schools.
- Point raised about adding bike infrastructure on See-Click-Fix (SCF). Laura Murray, Constituent Services director: if we have interest in bringing new categories, talk with her, but traffic issues

direct you on how to bring up to the City, i.e. Police. But there are issues like sidewalk parking that send you to WPD, but SCF not set up to deal with that. So how do we deal with these issues? FU with this on new business.

- Councilors asked about parents biking their kids to school and what works for infrastructure.
 - Main takeaway: come back at least yearly and come with more specific recommendations.
- Overall, impressed by what we did. Zeke sent a thank you to City Council highlighting the main points WBPC made.

Motion passed to put the Council presentation and handout on WBPC's webpage for reference. Social media/website manager Jeanne Ostroff handles this. Zeke will ask her about posting them. WPBC webpage needs to be updated overall as well. Also good to have a place for photos. Q: can we have a photo storage place (an "electronic file cabinet") like Google Drive or Flickr? Not clear. Zeke will ask. Add this to website update group.

Arlington/Nichols/Watertown-Cambridge Greenway intersection: How can we get DPW to take another look at it? Also Planning? Can we do a site visit? Need to rethink the whole intersection and connection to Filippello Park. The intersection is too big and has lots of safety problems with pedestrians being able to safely cross the wide expanse within the short time allowed & understanding how to navigate the intersection, especially around the large truck volume. Get a working group together to look at the intersection, have a site visit. Becky Lin: Allston-Brighton Bike Ped has site walks and invites anyone including elected officials to come with to look at the area. Will be in touch with them to see what they have done to help with visits. Working group: Becky Lin, Jamie, Amy, Eileen.

Meet & Greet: interest in having the following City staff come to the meetings. Scheduled for:

- Laurel Schwab (City Resilience staff) – come June 2, 2025
- Michelle Moon (Open Space Planner) – come in July 2025?

Have WBPC meetings be hybrid: Hannah is interested in having this more of a regular occurrence, with the intention being the meetings that we would have on Zoom having an in-person option most of the time except when people cannot. Motion made and passed.

Mobility/Transit Study run by the City: looking for ways to make mobility and transit better (more accessibility, increase mobility for residents & workers). Good if we can ideas together to present. Upcoming stakeholder input session (like a focus group) in early May 2025 on Zoom. Date to be determined soon, trying to do after WBPC's next meeting. Discuss at that next meeting.

New items: Jamie has reached out to Tom Floros about his attendance, has not heard back from him.

Motion to adjourn, passed.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

4/13/25, 11am: WBPC's Yard Art Bike Ride, Starting at City Hall (postpone if it rains)

5/5/25: Next Bike-Ped Committee Meeting, meet in person 3rd floor, Watertown City Hall

5/10: City of Watertown's Eco Fest: 11am-2pm

5/17/25: Watertown Porchfest- www.watertownporchfest.org

5/18/25: 4th Annual Kittie Knox Ride:

www.massbike.org/explore_kittie_knox_s_legacy_at_the_fourth_annual_kittie_knox_ride

5/31/25: WBPC's Get Out Your Bike event

6/1/25: Watertown Pride Festival/Parade