



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee met hybrid on Monday May 5, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in person.**

Present: Jamie, Sheila, Eileen, Jenny, Hannah & Amy; not present: Maria & Shanta; Zeke Mermell (staff);
Visitors: Sam Garwin.

Minutes from 4.7.2025 minutes moved and accepted.

Working Groups:

Live Well Watertown / WBPC Collaboration & Get Out Your Bike event planning (May 31, 2025):

- Bike Education program, grant from Sophia at TMA, she will know more about that in June.
- Get Out Your Bike: Amy, Sheila, maybe Shanta will staff. Sophia (WTMA) & Zeke will be there. Waiting on \$600 if needed to cover 2nd bike mechanic. Try to plan for bike mechanic months before next year. Will bring WBPC's stickers & reflector bands, Sheila bringing MassBike gear; Zeke to print out maps; bring 1 bike rack for people waiting for mechanic. BlueBikes will be there.
- Questions brought up: Should we formalize a request to have a discretionary fund? Would it be a good idea to teach people basic bike maintenance?

Events:

- Eco Fest: 11-2 Saturday 5/11: table & bike racks @ Commander's Mansion. Jamie & Zeke to be there, Sheila & Jenny for some time.
- Yard Art: went ahead, had good turnout, no police, so ask earlier next year.
- Porchfest: in 2 weeks, Jamie will see if can promote walking & biking.
- Watertown Pride 6/1: will have bike racks out, behind City Hall area.

New opening on WBPC (Tom Floros decided not to ask to be reappointed); interest by some people, Resident's Advisory Council looking over names on list from last few months. Can new people apply now? Keep an eye on vacancies listed by City. Tom was working on website, Jenny will look at it in summer if he can pass it over.

WBPC branding/logo (Jenny) sent out the logos. Bare image version, with square, horizontal and thumbnail version. Thumbnail would be hard to read but not need much. Jenny will make as individual files. Motion for Jenny to make PNG versions: clear & white backgrounds, moved & passed. Zeke will look at getting new banner, and smaller version for bike racks.

Photo storage and WBPC webpage: Photo archive – Zeke looked into it, can coordinate with City Information Technology, they might be able to create a group in MS Teams, could be added to agendas. Would be viewable to public, and committee would have access to all photos and organize.

If we have questions, go through Zeke. What about copyright? Ask Zeke to find out if City has guidelines, i.e. regarding people/kids. Need metadata standards to document and track. Send Zeke what we want that data to be.

Summer Street design considerations (part of WBPC's streets/intersections discussions): Sam Garwin, Summer St resident: concerns regarding amount of traffic and speed. Neighbors have been trying to get street calmed, nothing done since Complete Streets plan. Talked to Traffic Commission: 4 years out to make changes. DPW: will propose some short-term solutions. Summer St in top 20 of Complete Streets prioritization plan. Could Summer St be made an example of how to make it better? Next Traffic Commission meeting in June. Follow up from Sam after hearing from DPW, see what we can do to support it after that. Watertown Sq redesign is at least a few years away due to design & planning. Safe Streets for All money has educational & speed study [re: default speed limit, pertaining to streets to be identified] as part of it.

Meet & Greet with City staff:

- Prepare for Laurel Schwab's June WBPC visit (next meeting). She handles resiliency, climate issues, energy efficiency; has team working with her. How can we work with her on these issues and she promote bike/peds? City has goal to reduce vehicle travel by 50%. Also, how can we use other materials to meet our traffic calming needs, i.e. big planters. Does she have a role in pocket parks coming with Mt Auburn St redesign, make sure they remain public?
- Michelle Moon in July 2025, some of these questions may apply to Michelle since she is Open Space Planner.

Arlington/Nichols/Watertown-Cambridge Greenway intersection: Amy, Eileen, Becky (public), Jamie all observed one afternoon and discussed next steps. Possibly: bike count: AM, PM & weekday midday count. Possibly do a survey of users. Use as material for report to DPW. Could we use a video camera of intersection? Jenny will bring hers. Eileen will set up a schedule for counts and instructions. Do before next meeting.

Mobility/Transit Study run by the City: WBPC at Stakeholder Input Session, on Thursday 5/8, 11am. Anyone on WBPC willing can attend. Feedback can be sent to Zeke. Zeke will send the questions to Jamie for the meeting. On Zoom.

New items: DCR comment period for traffic circle near IHOP, extended to 5/8/25.

Motion to adjourn, passed.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 6/2/2025: Next Bike-Ped Committee meeting
- 5/10/25: City of Watertown's Eco Fest: 11am-2pm
- 5/17/25: Watertown Porchfest- www.watertownporchfest.org
- 5/18/25: 4th Annual Kittie Knox Ride:
https://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