



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown  
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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

## MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee met hybrid on Monday June 2, 2025, at 7:30 p.m in person.** Present: Hannah (chair for this meeting), Sheila, Eileen, Shanta, Amy, Maria & Adrian (via zoom); Zeke Mermell & Laurel Schwab (City). Not present: Jamie & Jenny.

A. Minutes of May 5, 2025, meeting, approval moved and accepted.

B. Welcome- new WBPC member Adrian Hauck, attended via zoom. Introductions of committee members.

C. Meet and greet with Sustainability Manager Laurel Schwab:

- Introduced herself: working for City 5-½ years, focuses on environmental planning, manages 3 people in Sustainability team that is responsible for implementing Climate & Energy Plan. Zeke coordinates with them on Transportation policy. Doing more events & outreach, i.e. Sustainability Fair (Eco Fest).
- Q: how can we coordinate better? i.e. create a bike tour for Green Tech tour.
- Enabling mode shift possible: reducing heat island & creating shade on routes so people can avoid extreme heat while walking/biking.
- Involved in Mobility Study & Watertown Sq development & upcoming implementation.
- Working with DPW supporting greening & stormwater issues especially for vulnerable populations; will be starting discussions with them about making sure they think about transportation sustainability.
- DCR: some coordinating with them: working with developers around maintenance.
- Input through Developer's Conferences on mode shift.
- Community Greening Program: includes using nature reduce stormwater, cooling, make beautiful. Tufts University students helped develop pocket parks.
- Laurel's team has capacity to help us with events, and we have info to give out at events they do. WBPC available to provide input on projects they are thinking about. Encourage alternative modes of transport to any event they do. Send her any events we do for their newsletter. Zeke will send our City Council presentation video & info.

D. Working Groups discussions:

- i. Recap of Get Out Your Bike event, and Live Well Watertown / WBPC Collaboration: called off due to rain, due to vendors coming. Hope to have them come to Farmer's Market instead. Live Well Watertown event: coming up.

- ii. Events: recap of Eco Fest: no bike parking. Porchfest: it rained but some people biked and some streets were blocked off & kids were riding a lot. Watertown Pride: a lot of people biked there but racks weren't assigned in a good place and no signage for bike parking.
- iii. Arlington/Nichols/Watertown-Cambridge Greenway intersection: Eileen: counts happening. Have subcommittee before next meeting to follow up on counts data.

E. Updating Bike-Ped materials (banner, handouts, etc.): Jenny not here, logo is finished where can it go? Use on minutes. Banner needs to be updated: need quote on cost. Get banner for bike racks. Discuss next month.

F. Invitation & RSVP asap to City of Watertown's Boards & Commissions Appreciation Night (June 17, 2025) – we are invited. RSVP – but we didn't get invite. Zeke will talk to Tyler to extend RSVP. Zeke will forward invite to committee and ask how late it will go.

H. Prepare for Michelle Moon meet & greet at July 2025 WBPC meeting: Open Space Planner. Was in Watertown as a Tufts student on Community Path. She works on parks: Bevis Park and Sullivan Playground. Items to discuss: DCR, bike amenities at playgrounds, access to parks & playgrounds, Community Path plans going forward. Funding opportunities for open space/sustainability projects. Coordinating with street redevelopment projects to get better access for other mobilities. Wayfinding to river bridge. We can provide input if she needs it.

G. Debrief City of Watertown Mobility Study stakeholder input session: Zeke: committee members gave input. In coming months, consulting team will give input on improvements. Stantec had good maps, and broke things down by types of mobility issues. There will be a big meeting with all stakeholders in the future.

I. Member items/New business: make sure to alert Zeke ahead of time if will miss (notably summer meetings) so we can make sure to have quorum at meetings.

#### J. UPCOMING EVENTS:

- i. 7/7/2025: Next Bike-Ped Committee meeting in person
- ii. 6/17/2025: Watertown's Boards & Commissions Appreciation Night