



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

STEVE ENGLER, CHAIR
SHEILA FAY
JANET JAMESON
MARIA SAIZ
NATALIE TRUESDELL
ETHAN DAVIS
NICK CUTIA

June 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee Members: Sheila Fay, Janet Jameson, Maria Saiz, Nick Cutaia, Ethan Davis

Guests: Gideon Schrieber (Community Development and Planning), Jeannette Belcher-Schepis (Community Safe Routes to School), Craig Markowitz, Watertown Resident

1. Acceptance of Minutes
2. MAPC Wellness Grant/Safe Routes to School: The middle school has decided to not do a bicycle training because of logistics because they were having difficulty in scheduling it. The issue was due to the snow days the curriculum that they could not fit it in. Scheduling it within the physical education classes is difficult because the trainer usually comes for one day and it is difficult to get everyone trained within the schedule. The goal long term is to train all of the 4th graders and 7th graders. Another possibility is for the PE teachers to deliver the curriculum. There are benefits to MassBike do the training because they are very engaging with the children. Jeannette will be meeting with the middle school principal to discuss the options further. The remaining possibilities this year are after school, the boys and girls club, or to do it in the Fall. The 4th graders and the 5th graders were trained this year. The 2nd graders will be trained on pedestrian safety in Fall.
3. Riding on sidewalks ordinance: Ethan has completed research on some other best practices for side walking ordinance. Cambridge ordinance is a reasonable model for Watertown to follow. Section 12.7: describes the situations in which it is legal to ride on sidewalks, and section 12.8 lists areas business areas where bicycles cannot be ridden. If there are designated areas for no bicycles these could be marked with signage. We need to make recommendations that serve the original purpose. Cambridge city also includes some "Bicycling Rules of the Road" that makes the law much more accessible. Ethan is willing to draft the recommended change to the law and rationale. The areas we recommend for business districts may include Main Street and Coolidge square.
4. The Comprehensive Plan Update: The second meeting was held in May and had 100-120 attendees. The draft vision and goals were presented and feedback was provided by the crowd. The envision Watertown site has been fairly active and there has been a lot of feedback. We hope to be putting the vision from the 2nd meeting on the site. Over the summer the plan will be drafted and the consultants will be reaching out to different town officials and officials.
5. The Bike Greenway Update and Charles River Connection:
 - a The Phase 1 clean up will be scheduled for the fall.
 - b Phase 2: the state has purchased the land of the right a way for the Watertown Greenway and Fresh Pond. The next step is to gather the dollars for the work to build the path. They have also discussed the importance of including the component of the connection to the Charles River.
 - c Charles River Connection: Steve Magoon is in support of working with DPW to do striping and paving the dirt path as part of the river connection. The committee is in support of having DPW move forward with striping and paving the dirt path. However, the committee would like to continue to look for resources for a larger scale engineering project.
6. The Mural Project: There will be 12 students working with the Mural Artist this summer. The artist will be presenting the initial designs the first week of June.
7. Mt. Auburn Street Status: There is a meeting on June 10th Energy Committee meeting, and Ethan is planning on attending. There is hope that Mt. Auburn will be addressed into the meeting.

8. Charles River Bridge Underpass: Sheila will draft a letter of support for having the underpasses available as they update the bridges.
9. Bicycle Pedestrian Accident data: No updates
10. New business-Safety concern: The construction and traffic on Waverly avenue is an example of a need to think through how to handle construction areas for pedestrian and bicycle safety. The Waverly avenue example identifies where there is need as many children without sidewalks are walking on the road and cars are not slowing down. There is need for more signage to address speed limits and caution.
11. Live Well Watertown: no update
12. The website and blog: The committee agenda and minutes we will plan to have linked from the Watertown Town website.