



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
Tel. (617) 972-6417
Fax (617) 972-6595

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 July 14, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in person.** Present: Jamie, Hannah, Sheila, Eileen, Shanta, Amy (zoom), Adrian & Maria; Zeke Mermell & Michelle Moon (staff); Becky Lin (visitor); Sophia Galimore (WTMA)

A. Minutes of June 2, 2025, meeting, approval moved and accepted.

B. Working Groups discussions:

- i. Live Well Watertown / WBPC Collaboration Tabling at farmer's Market: August 13, Aug 28. TMA didn't get grant applied for, figuring out still how to build out bike program. Bike Mechanic will be at farmer's market: 4:30-6:30. Will have sign up sheet. Bike Program Committee: met with Stephanie & Zeke, to figure out educational options.
- ii. Arlington/Nichols/Greenway intersection: some spot counts done, still need weekend midday, will schedule another working group meeting. Counts: diagonal crossing is 1/3 of volume. Adrian will do last one. Getting very basic counts, hard to do very specific numbers at all crossings. Get anecdotal info from people at Farmer's Market, Eileen has survey.

C. Meet and greet with City of Watertown's Open Space Senior Planner Michelle Moon

- iii. Bike data: Michelle found info from Somerville & Cambridge, Bike League, Boston MPO, etc. Somerville also uses people not on their bike/ped committee. Showing people the counts and asking for involvement would raise profile of bikes & peds.
 - a. Somerville bike counts:
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/cityofsomerville/viz/PedestrianandBicycleTrafficDashboard/BikePedDashboard>
 - b. MPO: www.ctps.org/geoserver/www/apps/bp-counts-app-01262024/index.html
 - c. League of American Bicyclists: <https://bikeleague.org/2022-making-bikes-count-bike-counts/>
 - d. Portland: www.portland.gov/transportation/walking-biking-transit-safety/documents/written-count-instructions-2025/download
 - e. MAPC: www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/1422_Tally_Sheet.pdf
 - f. City of Boston data: www.boston.gov/departments/boston-bikes/bike-data

- iv. Michelle: likes to bike, doesn't own a car; works on parks. As a Tufts student, she helped on Watertown's Community Path, then back to help with setting up Live Well Watertown. Worked on lots on public space projects.
- v. Funding/current park projects: 6 different projects: Arsenal, Saltonstall, Lowell – open or soon; Victory & Bemis will start. Working on Walker Pond Park: first community meeting is Aug 14. Re: parking, the City looks at how people can get to Walker Pond. Looking at projects for future. Arsenal Park just opened, needs some signage for how to get through it on bikes. Need design recommendations for bike racks that can accommodate cargo bikes. All parks have bike racks. Maria requested Michelle's input on new bike parking requirements passed last year.
- vi. DCR: applied for Mass Trails grant, working on clean-ups, also looking to connect with them on connections. Need for signage on paths, especially at Talcott Avenue end by Charles River. Also, trash cans on Greenway – in which Watertown was willing to install and collect.
- vii. Rodent problem: issue about poison traps: gets into raptors and then dying.
- viii. Community Path extension: grant applied for design to extend: Irving to Taylor streets. Enforcement issues on Taylor Street.
- ix. Open Space interactions with Watertown Public Schools / School Committee: not much time, and schools were designed before she got here.
- x. Committee is happy to add comments for projects. Michelle invites us to come to open meetings and make comments. Are bike lanes integrated into parks? Doing more of that. Bridge St path connections. Pleasant Street connection.
- xi. Trees for paths are needed, to entice people to walk. Michelle advocating for more plant beds, especially interesting in winter since not much snow. Also need more water fountains. Could we get cafes in parks? Also other kinds of amenities, i.e. game tables, etc.

D. Faire in the Square involvement preparations: Sept 13th, 12-5pm. Discuss more at next meeting.

E. Materials to order & WBPC branding: Committee requests Zeke to ask for budget money for supplies for fiscal year. Zeke trying to get money for new banner with new branding (\$70), flags for bike racks, maybe stickers, laminated Watertown map(s).

F. Artistic bike rack idea from a resident, and bike rack selection/location/request process ideas: some ideas to be presented to Committee, so we could have input. Possibly have contests at schools to pick ones.

G. Summer Street traffic inquiry: update from resident- recruited more people on Summer St; sent out a survey to neighborhood to get input.

H. Committee attendance for August 2025 meeting: yes, we have quorum

I. Member items/New business: Zeke will coordinate on meeting info about Climate Plan. Images on website now that could go to Image library.

J. UPCOMING/RECENT EVENTS:

- i. 7/8/25, 5pm: Metropolitan Area Planning Council's "Landlines" bike ride from JFK Park to Arsenal Yards (focus is to see infrastructure projects in construction or completed)
- ii. 7/13/25, 3:30pm: Family Bike Ride, from Memorial Drive to Arsenal Park- www.familybikeride.org/summer
- iii. 7/15/25, 4pm: Arsenal Park Ribbon Cutting Celebration: www.watertown-ma.gov/664/News-Announcements
- iv. 8/4/25, 7:30pm: next Watertown Bike-Ped Committee meeting