



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
HANNAH RAKOFF
MARIA SAIZ
JENNY WANG

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee met hybrid on Monday September 8, 2025, at 7:30 pm.**

Present: Jamie, Sheila, Eileen, Jenny, Hannah, Shanta & Maria; Zeke Mermell (staff); Becky Lin & Zac Cargill (visitors); not present: Adrian

- A. Acceptance of minutes of August 4, 2025, meeting
- B. Open Watertown Bike-Ped Committee seat: still collecting applications. Residents Advisory Committee (RAC) is still accepting applicants.
- C. Reiteration: WBPC meetings are hybrid format (in-person and on zoom) from now on, unless otherwise noted.
- D. Working Groups:

i. Arlington-Nichols-Greenway intersection & area:

- Reviewed slides from Eileen/prepare for meeting with City. Eileen & Jamie met to go over slides, parred down slightly. Draft- 9 slides: showing intersection as is: built over 2 timelines. Usage patterns include some MAPC usage. Counts: 88-198 crossings. 45% done diagonally despite not designed for it. Safety issue about 'Right on Red' from Nichols, with obscured visibility of crosswalk. Roadway geometry issues about size & alignment with Watertown-Cambridge Greenway, with wide roadways. Space for local survey feedback. Provide ideas for better safety including extending signal and painting roadways. Also showed diagonal path crossing examples. Showed count #s. Jenny has 360° video of intersection. Hannah suggested how to use video as part of presentation. Also, refer to drivers: highlight it is *people* making the choices. Goal: not prescriptive but suggestions to what City might be able to do easily. Invited City Engineer Tyler Glode to October WBPC meeting to show him. Nicole Gardner might be interested to attend. What is line between City & DCR property? We think DCR jurisdiction ends where sidewalk begins. Intersection was designed before Greenway was built. Working Group will meet one more time before October meeting. Jamie to present.
- Plan to be in person for that meeting. Shanta highlighted MassDOT design guide that shows Somerville Community Path diagonal crossing. Add to slides.
- Review online form and survey flyer, vote on posting it/using at FITS: Jamie put up a form on the website to collect how people use the form, what issues they have with it, how they would like it improved, and what reason they use the it. She created a QR code sign to collect input from people using the intersection. Got 20 responses from farmer's market. Becky suggested change of title. Add a link to the survey as well. Post at all the corners of the intersection and at Filippello Park. Have at Faire as well.

ii. Live Well Watertown coordination:

- Farmer's Market recap: went well, got quite a few people, lots of interactions with people. Bike tune-ups were fully booked. People loved the map. Get it posted online.
- Meeting with Stephanie Venizelos on bicycle education next steps: WTMA got some money. Possible 3-4 part series in spring events. These will be focused on adults. Safe Routes to School are more focused on kids. New SRTS MassDOT coordinator will have meeting with staff to discuss programming. Sept 18th call. Are they involved with e-bike safety for kids?

iv. Faire on the Square:

- Share schedule, ask for additional support if possible.
- Review new materials/swag. Jamie 11 -1, Jenny 12-3, Sheila 2 -5. We are in the "Meet Your City" Zone. Banner: graphics sent to printer. Waiting to hear if it will be ready for Saturday. Also will have big copy of map. Zeke will get supplies together. 6 bike racks. Ask Tammy McKenna if we have a tent – Zeke will ask.

E. Recent Developer's Conferences (meetings):

Updates from Maria on 33 Mt Auburn St, over by Taylor St. Bike path crosses across from the unit. 40 apartment units. Proposed bike parking messy, sketchy. Bike room: jammed and unclear entrance. Rack near the back of building. Short term parking on city property. Second development that didn't meet our bike parking requirements. Pedestrian issues about sidewalk width not ADA compliant, and with poles in the way. Also puts people in contention with bike/ped path (Community Path).

F. Ped signals in Watertown review: Adrian brought up a kickoff discussion; bring up next meeting.

G. Arsenal Park new bike/ped path; feedback from Sheila: no good marking for cyclists, no signage. Sheila to talk to Michelle Moon about it. Benches not set back from path so if cyclists go fast through there could be a problem. Accessibility issue.

H. Traffic Commission meeting takeaways: special meeting to address resident feedback about Russell Ave. City proposed bike lanes for 1 – 2 blocks on it to do traffic calming, part of larger network to encourage people to bike to HS, Lowell School and to Mt Auburn St. Meeting with a lot of discussion. City leadership there. Issue was around removal of parking. Commission voted to table their discussion till next meeting. Encouraged for Bike Ped Committee to attend the meeting in about a month. Meeting not yet set, Zeke will send out plans and meeting date.

I. Member items/New business: Arsenal Yards Bond Square: is it a City roadway? It feels like a parking lot and not very safe. It used to be a pedestrian zone. Next meeting discuss no bike lanes on recent Mt Auburn St marking.

J. UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 9/13/25: Faire on the Square: www.faireonthesquare.com
- 10/6/25: Next Bike-Ped Committee meeting