



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee Members: Steve Engler, Chair, Nick Cutaia, Ethan Davis, Shiela Fay, Janet Jameson, Maria Saiz, Natalie Truesdell

Guests: Gideon Schreiber (Community Development and Planning), one community resident,

1. Acceptance of Minutes
2. Comprehensive Plan Brainstorming Session: There is a web- site called "Mind-mixer" which allows community members to interact with their neighbors about ideas on the comprehensive plan. The library is another mechanism for people to interact and provide ideas on the comprehensive plan. The library has an exhibit on the plan and a drop-box. To join the email list-serve on the comprehensive plan, sign-up for a "notify-me" . The committee brainstormed suggested improvements to the previous bicycle transportation plan and this feedback was collected by Gideon Schreiber to include in the comprehensive plan.
3. Safe Routes to School Updates: Massachusetts Walk to school day was the first week of May and all three elementary schools participated. There is a walking Wednesday every Wednesday through the end of the year. Currently Jeannette is working on the establishment and re-invigoration of walking school buses. The goal is to develop some routes for the walking school buses. Jeannette also met with the new wellness task force 2 weeks ago and Jeanette is hoping the safe routes to school will become part of this. The wellness committee for the school committee has not met this year.
4. Watertown Greenway
 - a. Phase 1 Clean-up: Discussed a plan to have a river clean-up in the Fall. The event could be held in early October as another option to a May clean-up. Then going forward we will plan to coordinate the future spring clean-ups with bike week. There is potential that the Tufts could help maintain the portion of the path nearest their business. Long term it would be nice to have a "Friends of the Watertown Greenway" to support maintenance.
 - b. Phase 2 Progress: There is no new information.
 - c. Connection to Charles River-Next Steps: There is no new information.
 - d. Mural Project Update: Greg Bernstein was selected as the artist for the project. Tufts students will be cleaning the wall, and the paint and materials have been donated by Sherwin Williams and Home Depot. The students will begin painting in July based on Greg Bernstein's design. The recreation department is helping to manage the students. The mural will be completed in August, and there will be a dedication in the fall.
5. Community Path- Howard Street to Main Street Status.-There is no new information.
6. New business: There is concern about the maintenance of the river paths. The Charles River Watershed Association is one group to potentially work with and coordinate their volunteer groups as one mechanism to do the clean-up. There is need for both intermittent maintenance for clean-up and trash, there is mowing and trimming maintenance, and there is infrastructure maintenance of re-paving etc. Jason Ledder is the contact at Charles River Watershed Association. Another potential partner is the Friends of the River group in Watertown. It would be nice to have a comprehensive plan for maintenance and support.
7. Sidewalk Ordinance: State law is bikes can be on sidewalks unless local ordinance prohibits it. Cambridge makes certain business districts as disallowed for bike traffic on sidewalks. The ordinance has hyperlinks to maps to the business district where it is disallowed. The goal is to rewrite the Watertown ordinance, the Cambridge site provides a good example of a web based maps linking the business districts.