



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 and Pedestrian Committee met hybrid on Monday November 10, 2025, at 7:30 pm.**
Present: Jamie, Sheila, Eileen, Jenny, Maria, and Adrian; Zeke Mermell (staff); Sam Garwin (visitor);
Not present: Hannah and Shanta

A. Acceptance of minutes of October 6, 2025, meeting: moved and passed.

B. Open seat: still open. [Residents' Advisory Committee](#) (RAC) had interviews recently, but dealing with backlog from other committees/commissions, so it is taking a while. Sheila, Eileen and Shanta's terms are all up for renewal in February. Notifications sent to those incumbents in order to let the City know if renewing. Sheila is not renewing.

C. Working Groups discussions: LiveWell Watertown and Watertown TMA collaboration (including grants): still in conversations to expand Get Out Your Bike event, do a longer ride event, maybe more. Jamie and Jenny meeting with Stephanie/LWW, Zeke & WTMA about this. Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) grant applied for. WTMA grant from the same place for bicycle education. It would be shared with the City's Recreation Department.

D. ANG (Arlington-Nichols-Greenway) intersection/area- debrief from conversation:
Update: DPW came back with some draft ideas. Conceptual plan for feedback (not for construction). Based on temperature dropping, maybe stripping could happen in Spring 2026. What are detectable Warning Panels? Are they planning to put in curb cuts where the panels are. Moving the traffic signal box at the corner is not possible. Right turn (from Nichols onto Arlington) is still a hazard – would it help to paint a sharper corner, or build up an asphalt extension of the corner? Also, can the City extend the walk phase time? Or were they changed, per Tyler Glode's input from last meeting? Zeke's initial feedback: could they add more green cyclist crossing paint so motorists turning from Arlington would recognize the bicycle lane/crossing; signage for the northeast side of the intersection; and Filippello Park connection signage? From a resident: Could 'No Turn on Red' sign be put where it will be more visible? Could it even be done quickly before anything else is done?

Zeke will send the conceptual picture to everyone and any feedback would be sent to Zeke by the end of next week. The Working Group can look at the feedback. Look at diagrams in presentation from last meeting to see what was talked about. Longer term: need to look at what to do about Crawford Street.

E. Pedestrian signal timing and traffic crash data:

- a. Traffic signal issues– raised by Adrian. Look at main bicycle paths – because notice how most cyclists are going through the red light because they have to wait so long for the signal to change. Most of those lights come out from parking lots. Possibility of concurrent bicycle signal with traffic light. This is a big issue to raise for the Watertown Square area redesign and applies to lots of places in the City. Create a signal timing working group: Adrian will be lead, with Jamie and Eileen.
- b. Crash data: map from MAPC. Info from MAPC is not clear. Could we get reports from Watertown Police so we have more context? Back in notes from Laura Wiener should be a report from Andy Compagna (former Bike-Ped Committee member) about crashes. Could we get Sargeant Sampson to give us info? Boston Region MPO contact Kyle Casiglio discussing with Zeke about automatic bike/ped counters. He would be available to discuss this data.

F. Watertown Complete Streets Working Group: vote on representative(s) from WBPC. Coming back together. Will meet to advise on street redos. Composed mainly: City Staff – run by Tyler Glode (City Engineer) with Zeke (Sr Transportation Planner), DPW, Fire Dept, Watertown Council on Disability, etc. WBPC could have 2 slots, Jamie will be one of them. Format of meeting: TBD, but probably during the day. Zeke would put in the Committee’s request for times not during day, and remote.

G. Watertown Traffic Commission meeting recap: Maria summarized her feedback about the Russell Avenue bikeway. Would go from Mt Auburn St to Broadway, nothing beyond along Rusell. It needs to plug into a larger network of bike/ped infrastructure (e.g. “neighborhoodways”). Residents on Russell Ave didn’t want a bike lane; they didn’t think of it in the context of a bike network.

H. Developer's Conference / development updates: Maria feedback on two Mt Auburn Street sites:

- a. 72 Mt Auburn design: no bike parking shown in design, thus not consistent with zoning. 9 units, parking for 5 cars.
- b. 45-59 Mt Auburn: bike parking not clear, no accounting for e-bikes or cargo bikes. Need details. Temporary parking poorly placed because coming off Taylor St bike lanes puts cyclists on Mt Auburn where there are no bike accommodations shown. Car parking would cross the bike lanes on Taylor St. Talking to developer about keeping a space for bike/ped lane along old railroad area back there. Public meeting for the project is next week.

I. Member items/New business: Walker Pond – community survey on their website.

J. UPCOMING EVENTS:

12/1/25: Next WBPC meeting