



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ANDRE COMPAGNA, CHAIR
ETHAN DAVIS
SHEILA FAY
JESSE HAMMOND
JANET JAMESON
AMY PLOVNICK
MARIA SAIZ

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday, January 4, 2021**. Present: Andy Compagna, Ethan Davis, Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Janet Jameson, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz, Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Bob Shay, Susan Flint, Hannah Rakoff, Alan Fortin

1. Approval of minutes from December 3, 2020 meeting
2. "Culture change" follow up:
 - a. Letter to Health Department: Amy discussed the draft of a letter to the Watertown Health Department and Board of Health. Hannah suggested to focus on expanding access and making it more positive. Letter will be sent to Health Department and Board of Health, with cc. to Town Manager and Town Council. Amy will send revised letter to Andy to send.
 - b. High school redesign: Andy, Jesse, and Bob have been engaged and have brought up this topic in School Building Committee meetings. They are not ready to talk about bike issues yet. Janet said that Watertown Faces Climate Change has been working very closely with schools, and suggests working together to raise these issues. Priority for the town so far has been to get final design to state agency for funding.
 - c. Snow removal: What can we do to encourage people to shovel sidewalks, prior to getting an ordinance? Suggest looking at other towns for PR campaign examples. How to get out through town channels and neighbors to neighbors. In the last snow storm there were many issues with town snow removal, particularly around curb cuts. Andy and Bob will have an intro meeting with new DPW director, and may invite him to a future WPBC meeting. Bob will send some examples of snow shoveling campaigns. We should also emphasize that a program exists to help seniors with shoveling. Laura will draft something for social media on Senior Shoveling Program.
3. Recruiting New Committee members: Committee is down 2 members due to resignations by Oliver Rick and Tricia Hopkins. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest accompanied by a resume by email to townmgr@watertown-ma.gov or Town Manager's Office, 149 Main Street.
4. Bike-Ped Plan update—follow-up meeting scheduled for Thursday 1/21/21 at 6:00 pm with EDP/Public Works to review summary of comments. Then will vote to approve/send to full council.
5. Updates:
 - a. Greenough Blvd.—Amy: Request was approved by Economic Development and Planning Committee in December. Will now go to Town Council in January. Request is for Town

- Council to send a letter to DCR in support of piloting a closure on weekends this spring/summer.
- b. Climate Summit – Janet: Progressive Watertown had a Climate Summit for groups working on this issue. ~6 groups in Watertown were included in the meeting.
- 6. New business
 - a. 2021 meeting dates- Laura to send around dates and adjustments for holidays
- 7. Next Bike-Ped Comm. meeting February 1.