



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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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 in person with Zoom (remote) participation on Monday January 5, 2026, at 7:30 pm.** Present: Jamie, Sheila, Shanta, Eileen, Maria, Adrian, Hannah, Jenny; Zeke Mermell (staff); visitors: David A., Becky Lin, Paul G; Representative Steve Owens

A. Acceptance of minutes of December 1, 2025, meeting, moved & passed.

B. Update on open seat(s): RAC should be recommending appointments for new members in February, 2026.

C. Representative Steve Owens' e-bike legislation discussion:

Micromobility Legislative update: e-bikes, scooters, skateboards, mopeds & more. State trying to get a handle on how to deal with all these. Right now exist in a gray area. Steve sits on Joint Committee on Transportation. Current e-bike legal status: Class 1 & 2 electric bicycles. Class 1: motor of 750 watt or less, pedal assist, stops at 20 mph. Class 2: throttle-actuated motor 750 or less, no pedaling required, stops at 20 mph. All else: "motorized bicycle" (moped) which requires license & registration. Working on creating Class 3: has throttle & ceases to assist at 28 mph. Steve: H3756 new requirements for Class 3.

In Transportation Committee, reporting deadline: 3/18/26. Legislature set up Micromobility Commission. Includes: legislature, activists, MassDOT, etc., and had 5 public meetings. Recommendation: definitions focused on speed. Class 1: regular bikes, Class 2: up to 30 mph, Class 3: over 40 mph. A report coming out at the end of this month, will need legislative action, and turned into regulations. Steve can either send out a draft or final report as we decide. The 3 classes are set up by manufacturers. Would allow municipalities to regulate by class. Trying to prevent issues where municipalities impact longer bike/ped trails. Currently cannot ban mopeds without banning scooters, etc., because not distinguished in law. Difficulty telling Class 2 from 3 on sight. Enforcement may be an issue. RMV: not enough capacity for license requirements for Class 3 or under. Issues raised about mini-motorcycles due to weight and speed. There are age limits in the regulations. Issue raised about lights.

Once rolled out will need to do education on rights & responsibilities. Could we do more education in the schools, as well as farmer's market, etc. Curious what is currently on offer for bike education in schools? "Bike bus" in Watertown?

D. Takeaways from Committee Chair training for all the committee chairs: Jaime went.

- i. Subcommittees/working groups and quorum: groups need to be below quorum of 4 and have their own quorum of 3. Call them subcommittees instead of working groups. Minimum is 2 people (Committee members). Must be held in ADA-compliant spaces. Loss of Committee members (vacancies) doesn't affect number for subcommittees.
- ii. Watertown City Council appointments: City Council wants to approve our committee members; **won't apply to current members during current terms/until reappointments**. Will happen when Council approves those administrative codes.
- iii. Meeting rules on remote participation option, "hybrid meetings" (meet in person with Zoom/remote participation): all City meetings done hybrid are now in the webinar format, so attendees on Zoom are in a holding room. Committee members are panelists, visitors are attendees. Links coming from Watertown Cable, to come before every meeting. Hopefully same link. Supposed to take roll call if people on Zoom and we are taking a vote.
- iv. Creating a rules and regulations document: when administrative code comes out we will need a rules/regs doc on how our meetings are run. Jamie will start working on it with Zeke. Good chance to clarify certain regulations on public comment. No draft link on minutes posted until after we approve them. Nonmembers can attend and provide info but would not debate it.

E. Subcommittees/working groups updates:

- i. Quick LiveWell Watertown (LWW) update: program starting in January with Winter Biking workshop. Talked with Worth Smith from NEMO, interested in doing them. Start in February. Jaime will keep us posted.
- ii. ANG (Arlington/Nichols/Greenway): sent feedback to Department of Public Works, right before holidays. Zeke will follow-up with Tyler this month.
- iii. Pedestrian signals: establishing meeting time: met today. Want to get information on what Watertown has done in past; get info on Right on Red, and get crash data.
- iv. Traffic/crash data: establish subcommittee, and updates from Zeke Mermell: Watertown Police very collaborative. Could have info discussion with staff liaison from Police on how data is acquired, how robust, where it lives.

F. Watertown Bike-Ped Committee Clerk role:

- i. Update on artificial intelligence (AI) note-taking usage: no rule about using AI to take notes. Adrian tried AI during today's subcommittee meeting, will see how it works. Watertown Cable also has good notes. Would we need to have notification that we are recording? Would be good to do, especially if used in sub-committees.

G. Member items/New business

- i. Michelle Moon can come back to the Committee to talk about public space.
- ii. Snow removal responses from Tyler Cote are in the email Zeke just sent out today. One can find a lot of detail on www.watertown-ma.gov/shovel. Need to talk about enforcement.

H. UPCOMING EVENTS: 2/2/2026: Next Watertown Bike-Ped Committee Meeting