



Town of Watertown
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**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN
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 **February 4, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Jesse Hammond, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz, Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Susan Flint, Bob Shay, Dan McKinley, Hannah Rackoff

1) Introductions

2) Approve minutes from January 4, 2021 - approved

3) Bike-Ped Plan update—Laura spoke with McMahon - they are going to make changes, and then Laura will post the plan.

4) Updates:

- Greenough Blvd. - Amy to follow up with Mark Sideris to ask to send the letter to DCR on behalf of Town Council.
- Board of Health - Andy sent letter and Amy attended Board of Health meeting to say that we would like to work together in the future. Letter requested that bike and pedestrian access be considered for future health clinics.
- DPW Director contact—Andy invited him to future WBPC meeting (date TBD).

5) “Culture change” follow-up

- Snow removal - last spring, Town applied for funding to start program for high school and middle school students to shovel for seniors and people with disabilities who cannot shovel. This recent snow was the first where it was implemented. About 25 students and 25 seniors/disabled homeowners signed up.
- Marshall Home grant program will be looking for proposals for coming year. Could be an opportunity to have conversation about future improvements.
- Bike Month - May. Jesse to contact MassBike to see what they’re planning and if we can piggyback on anything.

6) New development projects

- 390 Arsenal Street (Natural Selections) - idea of connection to Greenway was discussed at meeting, but there was a lot of opposition, so unlikely that this will happen.
- 99 Coolidge Road--Maria - former location of Mt. Auburn Club. Proposing to create lab space and a parking garage where there is now a surface lot. Proposing to connect to adjacent DCR property that connects to Arsenal, Greenough and the River.

- Coolidge is a good place to add separated bike lanes and start implementing bike/ped plan. Challenge of intersection at Arsenal/Coolidge/Elm. Also challenge of Greenough and Arsenal intersection (no light).
- Concerns from DPW - 2 industrial sites with lots of trucks - Aggregate and UPS. Laura trying to work with DPW and the developer to explore on an extended sidewalk with space for bikes.
- Alexandria and National Development are the developers.
- One Arsenal Marketplace (617 Arsenal St)—Andy
 - Forge Road (next to Home Depot) - asking for bike/ped access to river.

7) New business

- Yard Art- Janet- encourages people to participate. Starting March 5 for 4 weeks.
- WFCC update - climate bill is back on Gov. Baker's desk after previous veto
- Laura – Town received MassDOT funding for new Bluebikes station on California Street near footbridge, and Complete Streets type pedestrian improvements at California Street and Fifth Avenue, Fifth and Watertown Street, and Watertown St. and Morse St.
- Upcoming meetings:
 - Next Monday 2/8 is second meeting on 99 Coolidge Road project
 - Town Council Public Works Committee Meeting on Waverley Ave. 2/23 - Complete Streets elements, possible partial bike lane implementation.

8) Next Bike-Ped Comm. meeting March 1.