



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ANDREW COMPAGNA, CHAIR
ETHAN DAVIS
SHEILA FAY
JESSE HAMMOND
JANET JAMESON
AMY PLOVNICK
MARIA SAIZ
COLLEEN TREACY

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday April 5, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Ethan Davis, Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Janet Jameson, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz, Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Susan Flint, Bob Shay, Dan McKinley, Hannah Rakoff, Alan F

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Approval of minutes from February meeting
2. Updates:

Community Path: Report on Council Committee meeting (EDP and PW). VHB has designed dedicated path along Arsenal, separated, turn on Taylor. Town has allocated money for the plan. Earlier Plan for the Community Path was along old RR bed from Irving to Taylor. There is still interest in the Town taking that land. Would involve a number of owners and high costs. Council Committee wants the Town to keep exploring that option, but looking to do quicker option along Arsenal for the time being. See article about bike use with new paths in NYT:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/01/climate/bikes-climate-change.html?searchResultPosition=3>

Snow removal: Bob Shay contacted Rules and Ordinances Committee chair (A. Donato) on when will bring it up. On hold now due to other commitments in town. Laura applied for grant from Marshall Home Fund with Rec. Dept. and Council on Aging to help seniors with shoveling: 28 kids, 40+ seniors, included in program this past year. Re-applied for next year. Provides ways to help people who need help with shoveling.

MassBike Event: Sophia (Watertown TMA) wants to partner with us for an event, w/ Bluebikes. Anyone interested in spearheading Bike Month event in May, let Jesse know, but not sure there will be ability to do a group event then. Event in fall for Bay State Bike Week. Possibly a tent at farmer's market if enough space. Bluebikes has promotional membership rate in May for Bike Month, possibly able to work with Climate Action Plan in May to promote it. Laura & Jesse to work on it.

Cambridge Watertown Greenway: Stopped again due to cost overrun. Looking like late summer/fall for paving.

Little Greenough Boulevard: Hannah: talked with Solomon Foundation, if need money to help they are willing to step up. Also available to help with guidance, suggested how to handle complaints so DCR doesn't have to deal with them. Talking with Jeff @ DCR Engineering – end of Feb/Mar: did traffic count, should be available end of March. DCR has announced Memorial Drive shut downs – Magazine Park.

Birmingham Parkway: Amy: DCR doing feasibility study on the Parkway, new design ideas. Major road diet. Wanting to create more park space. Discussion of what options would be better for bikes and pedestrians. Make comments by April 8. Amy sending link.

3. Development Projects:

- 99 Coolidge Ave: struggling to get bike lane on Coolidge Ave., because Aggregate trucks park on road to wait, and presence of numerous USP trucks. Will be at Planning Board meeting in April. Laura will let us know when it is.
- Arsenal on the Charles: This is an amendment to their original Master Plan Special Permit. Maria sent letter with questions about plans.
- BB&N Field Development: BB&N bought Grove St property near Coolidge Hill Rd, plan to build 2 sports fields, with some parking and 2 buildings in the future. They want to encourage biking & walking since only 1 mile from main campus. Fields will be accessible for Watertown use when not being used by BB&N. Access for town residents could be through Filippello Park, using wayfinding.

4. Yard Art big success, will happen next year in March. Good to think about planning bike map for next year.

Next Meeting: May 3th at 7:30pm via Zoom.