



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday May 3, 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, George Schneeloch, Greg St Louis (DPW Superintendent)

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Intro of Committee members & Greg St Louis, DPW Superintendent.
2. Short history of WBPC founding, and some accomplishments, including: working with DCR to promote Watertown/Cambridge Greenway; Community Path Project, worked with Town on Complete Streets policy & plan, and Bicycle-Pedestrian plans, provide ongoing input on bicycle infrastructure to planning & development.
3. Greg St Louis conversations on 3 strategic areas:
 - Snow removal: has history with it, how implemented is always the challenge.
 - Mt Auburn St: current status: working with various state agencies, getting them on board, esp. MBTA. What streets rise to Complete Streets treatment? Existing infrastructure affects what can be done.
 - Integrating Bike Ped plan with utilities, pavement quality is a consideration to implement plan moving forward.

Question raised about DPW support for restaurants wanting to extend into the streets: need to look at liquor requirements, then talk about how to protect diners from traffic.

4. Approval of minutes from April meeting
5. Bike-Ped implementation Plan: TC sub-committees (Economic Development and Planning, and Public Works) requested that Planning Dept. develop an Implementation Plan. Laura described 9 step starting plan for meeting on 5/13 @ 6:30pm. Maria: Also need to have a longer term implementation plan. Members encouraged to attend sub-committee meeting.
6. Representative to Climate & Energy Action Plan Advisory Group needed: Town is creating a plan to get to zero emissions by 2050. Stakeholder Advisory Group is being created to represent and connect community with planners/consultants. 3 meetings. Andy & Amy volunteered to tag team.
7. Updates:
 - Greenough Blvd: DCR closed from mid-April to November. Need to get word out about it. Hannah & Andy talking with Solomon Foundation about an outdoor event for later in summer? Some complaints re: accessible parking. Sen. Brownsberger suggests success will be judged by community use & enjoyment of the space. Possibly some event in summer. Look into RiverFest

for ideas. Watertown Foundation and Watertown for All Ages as resources. Amy, Dan, Hannah, Maria, Janet all interested in working on this.

- Birmingham Parkway: nothing more happening, comment period ended. Cones were placed blocking the right lane over the bridge when Little Greenough was closed.

8. New Business:

- Adaptive Bike program out of Franciscan Hospital, parent reached out to Lisa Feltner, who reached out to Andy to see if could bring to Watertown. Andy will talk to parent about it and report back next month.
- High School Rebuild: current plan for HS replacement to keep in same place, with transition space being in Moxley Field. Concerns re: traffic flow, pedestrian access. Discussion will be coming.

Next Meeting: June 7th at 7:30pm via Zoom.