



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, June 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Ethan Davis, Jesse Hammond, Janet Jameson, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz, Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Susan Flint, Dan McKinley, Hannah Rakoff, Carol M.

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Approved minutes of May 3, 2021
2. Bike Ped Implementation Plan, meeting of Council Committees on Economic Dev. and Planning and Public Works—Andy, Jesse, Janet, Laura
 - Meeting discussed items in Bike-Ped implementation plan – about 6 items. Suggestion to discuss progress on each of these items at Bike-Ped Committee meetings.
 - Certain items were not considered in purview of EDP and PW Subcommittees – e.g., snow removal will be discussed at upcoming special TC meeting. TC is likely to refer to Committees on Rules and Ordinances and Public Works for consideration.
 - Topics of discussion included Bluebikes, Safe Routes to Schools, Crash Data, community path.
 - Jesse stated that there seems to be support in Town Council for these items, and that we should keep up the momentum.
3. Bluebikes statistics--Laura
 - Data is available from Bluebikes. There was interest in digging in and seeing how we are doing.
 - Send Andy/Laura questions we have about Bluebikes (e.g., where are people taking the bikes; how many people are taking bikes to get to the red line?)
 - Discussion in Council meeting about where the next stations are going to go. Could we use the data to help figure this out?
 - Watertown ridership numbers are similar to Arlington, much higher than Newton
 - Is there a correlation between miles of bike lanes and Bluebikes stations?
 - Town has a program for quarterly traffic counts at high volume locations, which includes bike counts. Haven't done it since 2018, but are re-initiating now.
4. Knowles Rd.--Andy
 - Intersection at Belmont Street and Lexington Street. DPW is redesigning and reconstructing the intersection. Challenge of merging onto Belmont St. on bike. Town Engineer is looking into potentially shortening the distance needed to travel.

5. Resilient Watertown--Amy

- Amy is participating as WPBC rep on the Resilient Watertown stakeholder committee. The first meeting was held on May 10. Moving forward the committee will split into working groups to cover different topics, including transportation.

6. Little Greenough Blvd—Amy

- Outreach (Dan) – reached out to Liveable Streets, Bluebikes, and several more orgs to spread the word about the closure
- Event – reaching out to Commonwheels and Mass Bike for bike check event
- Plan an event as group of interested citizens. Frame as pop-up event.

7. Development Projects—64 Pleasant St (formerly Sasaki)—Maria, Laura

- 64 Pleasant Street is being redeveloped into lab space
- This is a small project relative to what else is going on in Watertown. Not making major changes to the site. Likely to go before Planning Board in July.
- Recent change to the zoning to allow for lab space in central business district
- Discussion of Watertown Square intersection and what types of mitigations could be included. Crossing Watertown Square between sections of the Charles River Path.
- One issue talked about at meeting was access to bike path. Access is through the neighboring site.

8. New business (from last meeting)

- School St./Arsenal St. intersection—Dan. Watertown DPW did some work on intersection redesign. Design is pretty far along, it is part of mitigation for athenahealth development of Arsenal on the Charles. Dan reviewed the plans.
- Bike training—Andy. Adaptive Bike program found another location.
- Schools – opportunity for engaging with school building projects. Add to WBPC agenda for next month.

9. Next Bike-Ped Comm. Meeting July 12.