



## Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown  
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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ANDRE COMPAGNA, CHAIR  
ETHAN DAVIS  
SHEILA FAY  
JESSE HAMMOND  
JANET JAMESON  
DAN MCKINLEY  
AMY PLOVNICK  
HANNAH RAKOFF  
MARIA SAIZ

## MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday July 12, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Ethan Davis, Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Janet Jameson, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz, Dan McKinley, Hannah Rakoff, Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Susan Flint

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Intro of new members: Committee welcomed Dan McKinley & Hannah Rakoff
2. June 7, 2021 Minutes approved
3. Future meetings (Post Covid): Committee discussed how it wants to meet in the future--stay virtual, in person, or hybrid. State has extended remote participation to April, 2022, assume hybrid available till then. Committee expressed a preference for hybrid, where Committee meets in person and allows remote participation. Hybrid is done using Watertown Cable Access. Only a few rooms in Town Hall can accommodate hybrid meetings: Council Chamber and Library. It is expected that Lower Hearing Room and Third Floor Conference Room will eventually be able to accommodate. Question about how long ahead to change from hybrid. Hopefully by August Lower Hearing Room ready for hybrid. Motion to meet in person/hybrid in August pending Lower Hearing Room ready for hybrid.
3. Faire on the Square (FOTS): is back on September 25th
  - a. Committee decided to explore providing expanded bike parking in lieu of having a table at the event. Bike Corral: Amy spoke to FOTS organizer Dan McCarthy about bike corral before cancelled 2020 Faire. He seemed amenable. Could rent bike racks (self-park) or valet style (MassBike staffed) Possible location in front of Town Hall. Sub-group: Andy, Dan, Sheila, Laura will explore options for location and equipment. Have a table as well? Group will decide. Possible sticker: I biked to the Faire. Advertise it. Laura will discuss with Bluebikes keeping bikes available at 2 stations nearby.
4. Maintenance of Pedestrian Accommodations: Sheila expressed concern about condition of benches at bus stops in Coolidge Square. Bike Plan suggests DPW have reporting system for issues. DPW has annual planning meeting about street and sidewalk repairs. Reporting issues to DPW is now on website. Town IT department is initiating a Town 311 reporting system, on Town Council meeting agenda tomorrow.

5. Updates:

a. Bike Ped Implementation Plan: Laura to report to us about what is happening, send with agenda before the meeting, to keep it front and center.

b. Bluebikes data: Andy & Laura have generated some visualization of data. Although doing well in relation to other new communities (Chelsea, Arlington and Newton), we are not meeting the minimum ride numbers needed to not pay operating costs. Roughly 1000 rides/month vs. 1750 rides/month needed to avoid operating costs. Two new stations going to be installed—on California St/Fifth Avenue, and Arsenal on the Charles. Laura is gathering reporting ridership data every month or 2 months. Question: what is the best way to make it publicly accessible?

c. Resilient Watertown: Amy: Stakeholder committee has broken into smaller groups. Andy & Amy are on Transportation and Mobility Committee. Working on Town-wide goals. Survey email was sent by Laura – please fill it out.

d. Little Greenough Blvd: Amy: possible event for this summer to include bike repair. Amy trying to reach CommonWheels to see if available. Road is being used, but more people on sidewalks not in roads.

e. New School buildings: Andy: how can we meet with the School Building Comm. about making schools more friendly for walking & biking. Especially with 4 new schools being built. Laura has attended meetings for swing space for HS at Moxley Field. Having covered bike racks would be helpful. We have sent one letter but another one would be helpful. Laura & Andy to resend. Drop off space for parents riding with their kids to school is a good idea.

**Next Meeting: August 2nd at 7:30pm hybrid: Lower Meeting Room at Town Hall and via Zoom, pending availability.**