



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Thursday December 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Ethan Davis, Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Janet Jameson, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz, Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Bob Shay, Lisa Feltner (TC), Hannah Rakoff

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Approval of minutes for November 5, 2020 meeting
2. Public meeting on Bike-Ped Plan, Mon 12/7 at 7pm, before Town Council Committees on Economic Development and Planning (EDP) and Public Works (PW).
3. Culture change: Amy noted recent Health Dept. flu shot clinic had only car drive up with no apparent accommodation for bike, ped or wheelchair. Discussion about integrating Bike & Ped considerations with Town Hall departments. Somerville did this for Covid testing. Idea: reach out to Town Departments, businesses, as well as residents. Intro email/packet to send to businesses about who we are and inviting people to participate. Work with Library to do a themed display for May Bike Month, maybe with other organizations. Work with town departments: ie. write letter to Health Dept Director and Board of Health for future clinics. Include Walking Map when reaching out to others. Sheila, Amy & Laura to draft a letter, pass by Andy to send.
4. Updates
 - a. Snow removal Ordinance: Bob Shay: Snow removal ordinance is a recommendation in Bike Ped plan being presented to TC, probably in January. After adopted, request Town Council to refer it to a Committee, and work with them to draft an ordinance.
 - b. Greenough Blvd: Amy & Hannah: request for TC letter of support to consider closing Greenough, to be discussed at TC EDP committee mtg on 12/10 at 6pm. Once we have a letter, Sen. Brownsberger will write a letter in support, to DCR. Lisa suggested clarifying ask to TC. Lisa & Amy to talk.
 - c. Waverley Ave re-design: Waverley is an important North-South connector west of Watertown Square. Two plans proposed: one includes bike lane where wide enough, lanes on uphill side of road, means taking some parking in front of houses. Other plan: parking retained with sharrows. Complete Streets working group met to discuss, without final resolution. Laura thinks there will be a public meeting on it but not yet scheduled.
5. Development Projects:
 - a. High School: Andy talked to School Building Committee. They said not time now, will contact us later on bike ped access. Jesse asked about it at community forum: Committee agreed to

include bike and ped. facilities. Re: bike lanes on Common near the HS: could street be widened? Need to be discussed with Town.

- b. 705 Mt. Auburn St (Tufts Health Plan): Conversion to lab and office when Tufts Health Plan leaves in December, 2021. Andy and Laura attended Developers Conference to offer comments, with written comments by Maria. Good bike and ped facilities and planning, with public connections to Watertown-Cambridge Greenway and good access throughout the site.
 - c. 23 Elm St Developers Conference (Lab and office). Andy and Laura attended, with Maria offering written comments. Relatively small site, not much significant re: bike-ped access, but does offer bike storage and facilities, and a new sidewalk in front of site. Ask developers to come to meeting to discuss bike needs.
6. New Business:
- a. Newsletter went out. Laura did nice job
 - b. Community-wide Climate event coming up. Different Watertown interest groups to talk together. Important to have B-P representation to include transportation in the discussion. Andy sent out details. Janet Jameson is part of organizing group.

Next Meeting: January 4, 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom.