



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ANDRE COMPAGNA, CHAIR
ETHAN DAVIS
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JESSE HAMMOND
TRICIA HOPKINS
JANET JAMESON
AMY PLOVNIK
OLIVER RICK
MARIA SAIZ

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday July 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Andy Compagna, Ethan Davis, Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Janet Jameson, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz. Non-members: Laura Wiener (staff), Hannah Rakoff, Susan Flint, Bob Shay.

- 1) Approve minutes from 9/14/20 and 9/21/20.
- 2) Bike Ped Plan update: Laura W reported, McMahon incorporated comments from 9/21 meeting. New draft will be posted to website this week. Requested TC joint Committee meeting of Public Works and Econ Develop & Planning. This will be public meeting, probably end of October. Hannah asked about policy regarding curb installation. Town policy is to install new curbs when doing a full-depth street reconstruction but not for a "mill and overlay". Would like to see a prioritized list of sidewalk where curbs are needed.
- 3) Recap of Road Prioritization meeting (Public Works Comm. of Town Council): mostly about specific roads for repair, with overview of how they decide. Councilor Piccirilli noted there was money available for additional street and sidewalk work.
- 4) Snow Removal Ordinance: Bob Shay talked with Council President Mark Sideris who suggested doing the Ordinance in two parts, starting with non-owner-occupied homes. Bob suggests WBPC start the process by requesting the Council consider such an ordinance. Bob will draft a letter and send to Andy.
- 5) Covid 19 working group:
 - a) MassDOT Shared Streets grant: MassDOT put out quick turnaround grant requests for public health related improvements. Watertown applied for funds to do a temporary shared use path from Saltonstall to Church St, with paint & bollards. Difficult to go through CVS parking lot due to islands that would require construction. DPW will oversee the project with help from Planning.
 - b) Closing Little Greenough Boulevard to traffic: Amy suggestion, at the last Bike-Ped Committee meeting, Vivian Ortiz (Safe Routes to School) mentioned she is on a DCR stewardship committee and could advocate for reclosing Greenough to traffic on the weekends. Sen. Will Brownsberger will write a letter and suggested getting Town Council on board to go forward. Plan to get support from TC, then deliver petition and letter to DCR end of October, then DCR stewardship comm in November. Amy will draft an email for Andy to send to Mark.
- 6) Report to TC on our accomplishments. Supposed to do yearly but has been 2 years (Nov 2018). Suggestion to put together a sub-committee to get info together. Sheila & Ethan will look for the presentation and send around.

- 7) Development projects: Tufts Health Plan will be leaving their building at 705 Mt. Auburn Street. Bought by a developer to turn into lab space. There will be a public meeting about the proposal, not yet scheduled. DCR Watertown-Cambridge Greenway comes behind Tufts parking lot, and in between another building the group owns. Need to keep an eye on access to the greenway path from there/Grove St.
- 8) New business:
 - a) Galen St community meeting: new lab buildings proposed next to Watertown MBTA Yard, very visible. Has impactful proposals around transit and bikes. Will make significant changes to transportation in the area and significant improvement. Aware of relationship to Charles River Path and want to incorporate access to it. Also want to create more parks and trees. Can we ask them to come make a presentation to the committee? Laura will check in and see if developers will come to committee.
 - b) Next meeting talk about Flu Clinic set up for automobiles and not for accommodating bikes and walk-ups.