



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday September 14, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Ethan Davis, Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Tricia Hopkins, Janet Jameson, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz; Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Colleen Treacy, Susan Flint, Hannah Rakoff, Bob Shay, Carolyn Bays (TC), Alan Foxx, Vivian Ortiz MA Safe Routes to School, Gregory Connolly

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Approval of minutes for August meeting
2. Bike Ped Plan: last time we gave feedback that recommendations weren't very clear. They provided a more focused Action Plan. DPW and Steering Committee went over it. Committee will review in coming weeks and review at special meeting. Date to be determined.
3. Draft Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance: Bob Shay presented possible version. Needs to be written up as an ordinance. Mark Sideris recommended limited version that addresses non-resident landlords. Bob to report to Mark S about our agreement to go on with limited version, ask him how to draft as ordinance. Has to go to Rules & Ordinance Committee.
4. Covid working group: (Amy & Hannah) focusing on Greenough Blvd after DCR reopened it to traffic in July. Petition to DCR to re-close the road for peds & others. Petition open 1 month, 400 signatures so far. Gathering has slowed down. Next step: how to present to DCR. Herb from Solomon Foundation gave some ideas about bigger vision. Might help DCR to have town supporting this, by way of a resolution from TC. DCR closed road purely based on rising traffic volume, not complaints.
5. Safe Routes to School: Vivian Ortiz our MA SRTS rep presented. Jesse Hammond has offered to work on SRTS. Program goes to schools to help kids learn how to use crosswalks. They are prioritizing arrival & dismissal plans that include biking and walking, written and distributed to parents, and new Covid protocols for parents walking up to school and buses. Trying to create Watertown SRTS task force led by parent or school district person. Working on preferred walking routes. Oct 7th Walk Bike & Roll to School Day will be virtual. Making routes safe for kids makes it more useable for all ages. Work with architects on school redesigns to prioritize walking & biking. Committee recently sent a letter to School Building Committee to take walking & biking into consideration. Way to do some bike rodeos even in Covid times to keep encouraging kids & families to stay active even with school re-started.
6. New Business:
 - a. DCR Watertown Greenway: construction restarted with projected opening next summer.
 - b. Oliver has left committee and needs to be replaced on both Committee and on Site Plan Review Comm which meets last Tuesday of month at 9:30 am, as needed. Maria will attend next meeting. Also Wayfinding Signage Comm. Plan in process. Sheila interested.
 - c. Development projects: Mt Auburn Club: proposed bio-tech lab. End of October will be site-plan review.

Next meeting October 5 via Zoom. Possible special meeting Sept. 21 to discuss Action Plan.

