



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
Tel. (617) 972-6417
Fax (617) 972-6595

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ANDREW COMPAGNA, CHAIR
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 November 8, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Janet Jameson, Dan McKinley, Amy Plovnick, Hannah Rakoff, Maria Saiz, Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Susan Flint, Bob Shay, Chris & Jamie Burke, Paul Gregory

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Minutes approved
2. Meeting format: meet in person vs. hybrid. Hybrid allows more public participation, though can be hard to see visitors. State has extended ability to hold public meetings virtually until April, 2022. Moved: try hybrid for 1-2 months and reassess. Would attend in person: 6 would, 1 would not, 1 maybe.
3. Letter to School Building Committee thanking them for attending our meeting: summary of points and our feedback
 - a. Temporary HS at Moxley Field: suggest vehicle access to Linden St limited to only during drop off/pickup times, limit community path continuation is solely for bike/peds, rapid flashing beacon at French & Main maintained, and adding raised intersection at 2 places.
 - b. New HS at Columbia St: recommend outdoor bike parking be sheltered, well lit, and sufficient for 20%, of students, and expand scope of landscape design to incorporate Complete Streets improvements.Voted unanimously to send letter as written to School Comm.
4. Vacancy on Complete Streets Committee: Ethan was a member, now vacant. Dan McKinley will represent, Maria Saiz will be back-up.
6. MassDOT Mt Auburn redesign public hearing. Discussion: push for flex posts along the bike lanes; does this plan meet the current guidelines for bicycle accommodation? Cambridge will be extending separated bike lanes to Watertown, we should coordinate; concern regarding bike lane vs. sharrows in areas; concern regarding pedestrian crossing signals being 4 way – not as safe; enforcement is not a substitute for safe design. Sub-committee to draft a letter: Sheila, Dan, Janet & Andy, authorized to submit to MassDOT & distribute to City Council & Town Manager, Rep. Steve Owen. Individuals can submit their own comments. Voted unanimously.
7. Push off Bike/Ped Implementation Plan & Climate Action Plan agenda items.
8. DPW Road Plan: Is there some way we can engage with DPW proactively on road plans? Sidewalk condition index – what is the process? New street scan technology in use. Lisa Feltner brought up sidewalk conditions to DPW.

9. Bike/Ped vacancy: new charter has some changes to how volunteers are chosen for committees (after January). Would like to fill vacancy. Andy to send letter to request the vacancy be filled.

Next Meeting will be December 6, 2021.