



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ANDREW COMPAGNA, CHAIR
JAMIE BURKE
SHEILA FAY
JESSE HAMMOND
DAN MCKINLEY
AMY PLOVNICK
HANNAH RAKOFF
MARIA SAIZ

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday April 4, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Jamie Burke, Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Janet Jameson, Dan McKinley, Hannah Rakoff, Maria Saiz, Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Susan Flint, Paul Gregory

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Introduction and welcome to Jamie Burke, new member
2. Minutes for March approved.
3. Committee Discussion:
 - a. Yard Art Bike Ride: Janet reported, ride went well. Sub-group developed route and planned event (Janet, Sheila, Andy, Jesse). Ride was accessible for everyone, ages 6 – 73. Janet wrote something for Watertown News. Police were great and enjoyed the ride.
 - b. Manley Way: recap & follow up: Manley Way tiny alley off Pleasant St, small building that used to have trampoline company in it. Was going to be Life Sciences lab, and they've withdrawn after requirements listed. Maria noted that the design was very car focused and comments made at the Developer's Conference encourage better bike and ped access.
 - c. New site plan: 104 Main St. will have Developers Conference in late April. Mixed use proposal in building that includes the PO, opposite Library.
 - d. Watertown Helps Out – Watertown Community Foundation: Andy: this volunteer event is coming back after 2 year hiatus, for the whole month of May. Suggestions for how we can participate: clean-up of Greenway between Nichols & School St. Will Brownsberger is also sponsoring a 4/23 Charles River Path cleanup. Andy will reach out to WCF about a date and possible project for the Committee.
 - e. Snow Removal Ordinance – joint committees of Public Works & Rules & Ordinance: Laura reporting: committees seemed very committed to passing an Ordinance. Changes included wider sidewalk path (42"), give everyone 24 hours to comply, owner's responsibility to provide access to streets, made ordinance simpler by making commercial and residential requirements the same, only difference is higher fines for commercial owners than residential owners. Committees requested guidelines for an exemptions, Laura is working on it. Looking at other communities: Newton most detailed: based on income and need a note that can't shovel. Other communities say call the Council on Aging. Public forum will be second joint meeting to

come. Hope it will be in place by next winter. Laura did a great job crafting the ordinance for them.

f. Watertown Mall Letter: Amy & Dan letter sent out. Letter approved to send to Alexandria. Laura has some concerns and wants to review some more and possibly separate out the things that only apply to the town. Motion: Dan & Laura will review tomorrow and possibly revise and send back to committee for review, then send.

g. Little Greenough: Hannah reviewed that Little Greenough was closed by DCR to cars in 2020, and then again last year Apr-Nov. This year Councilor Gardner trying to get DCR to Town Council committee for public meeting. Last year town suggested a pilot where it would close on weekends, but DCR just closed it in April. Road is in poor condition. Some opposition from Arsenal Yards to the closure. Climate Plan published this year would support closing it. Not heavily trafficked road and not a great cut through. Also safer, giving kids a wide place to ride that doesn't exist elsewhere in town.

4. New Business

a. Little League Opening Day, Andy reached out to Ethan about doing another Helmet Day. April 30th. Andy to check how many helmets we have left. Jesse & Jaime might be available to help. Be clear on proper fitting.

b. Mt Auburn St updates: Greg St Louis (DPW director) will meet with us next month. Still going through the comments, which he will discuss. MassDot committed to an additional 2nd public meeting in last presentation. Discussion regarding sending him our letter again.

c. Discussion on whether we should have a sub-committee to monitor progress of Bike Ped Plan. Andy mentioned it would be data intensive. Sub group might be best way forward. Hannah brought up that charter mentions that City Manager is supposed to monitor movement on plans. Will talk about at next meeting. Make sure to get public involvement.

Next Bike-Ped Comm. Meeting Monday, May 2, 2022; 7:30 via Zoom. DPW Superintendent Greg St. Louis will attend