



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ETHAN DAVIS, CHAIR
ANDREW COMPAGNA
NICK CUTIA
SHEILA FAY
JANET JAMESON
PETER KEPPLER
MARIA SAIZ
SAM SCOPPETTONE

January 9, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee Members Present: Ethan, Janet, Maria, Sheila, Andy, Gideon, Sam

Visitors: Charlie Dennison (Livable Streets), Simone Bailey, Jean Dunoyer, Lisa Feltner (Town Councilor)

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from December 2016 meeting were approved.

1. **Mt Auburn Corridor Study:** meeting last month at the Library. Ethan commented for the Watertown Tab: we feel strongly wanting cycle tracks and making Mt Auburn St accessible for cyclist all levels. Possible joint mtg w/ Town Council and others to give input. 71 bus an issue on the corridor, so need help with public transit.
2. **Charlie Dennison: Advocacy Cmte LivStr:** found out about this project in Tab, compare to Mass Ave redevelopment. Wants to assist in the process and see how to get assistance in the process. Other engineers: innovative: Toole Design – working on Beacon St Somerville redesign. Need to frame the conversation: about safety and economic vitality: frame around that vs. level of service (traffic). Who to talk with in town mgmt.: Matt Shuman. Plan still at pre 25%. Once get to 25% structure doesn't get changed. 2 meetings not enough to get enough input. The more input and decision making people understand, more buyin will get. Next steps: approach DPW re: process, get a clear timeline, get clearer public process. Get project page website and wikimap (can be used to comment on design). Lisa trying to get input from groups so everything isn't doing by committee. Towns in the area are building cycle tracks. We would like to see serious discussion about the design constraints for a cycle track. Issue of pushback in town about all the changes going on. Discussion about cycle tracks and protected bike lanes, also bus transit issues. Ethan: Committee send letter to Mark Sedaris that Cmte would like to see more discussion about the issue, and more transparency on process. Ask Matt Shuman to do joint meeting with some other groups.
3. **Pedestrian accidents:** Watertown St: fatalities in November, and New Years. Continuing problems in same areas where pedestrians get hit. Few drivers getting ticketed. Q: on what basis PD issuing tickets? Would like to have PD come to next meeting or give written info. Ethan will reach out to Sgt Samson. Also, keep metrics to know how accidents are trending. Policy options to improve safety? Vision Zero possibility. RE: speed limit: Traffic Cmm will discuss hopefully at next meeting, and then discuss with TC.
4. **Head of Newton Bike Advisory Group would like to meet to discuss California St Bridge.** They will let Ethan know when their next mtg is. Want to discuss CA St path and Bridge St.
5. **Meetings:**
 - a. Wed: Arsenal Yards: mitigation package/master plan;
 - b. next Wed: conservation commission re: Arsenal Park connection for Greenway.
6. **New business: W. Newton building cycle track and rebuilding pedestrian infrastructure in the area.** Other towns are building more infrastructure – what do we need to do to help us move forward.

Next Meeting: February 6th at Lower Meeting Room, Watertown Town Hall