



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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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 February 7, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Janet Jameson, Dan McKinley, Amy Plovnick, Maria Saiz, Laura Wiener (staff); visitors: Susan Flint, Jamie Burke, Chris Heidelberger, Bobby Stroup, Ryan Tuckerman, Nicole Gardner (CC)

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Introductions: visitors and committee members introduced themselves
2. Acceptance of minutes from January 10 meeting.
3. Administrative:
 - a. Laura Wiener retiring in March, but will continue part-time until replaced, probably a few months.
 - b. City wants to absorb committee's FB page and social media. Committee is concerned that we won't be able to advocate for bike ped issues on the City site. Jesse suggests making it a private page that is unofficial where we can post some things, while also using the City's outlets. Laura will talk to IT dept about this. Laura, Andy & Jesse will meet to discuss.
4. Committee discussion:
 - a. Yard Art: proposing to map a ride, planning for Mar 27, rain date Apr 3. Police will be glad to accompany. Lots of people registering to show art on their property. By 3/1/22 should have an idea of where places will be. Then sub-committee can draw up map covering flat areas. Another meeting will be set up. Possible smaller walks as well.
 - b. Comprehensive Plan: City Planning Dept. to revise 4 elements: Transportation, Land Use, Open Space & Economic Development. Putting together an advisory committee. Want someone with skills in each area. It is expected to take about 14 months. Laura will be sending job description.
 - c. Watertown Mall community meeting recap: Target is staying, the rest will be demolished and redeveloped as lab space with some retail space. Proposing protected bike lane along Arsenal Street, limited due to Target lease on parking lot. Also will add more entrances to DCR Greenway. Lots of comments about transportation and people wanting safe bike/ped access. Chance to tie all bike paths together. Consider options for what we can ask for with mitigation moneys. Another public meeting coming up 3/1 and developer's conference not yet scheduled.

d. Western Avenue, Allston "Transitway": City of Boston presented redesign. Very ambitious: only 1 travel lane, for westbound traffic, with dedicated bus lanes and protected bike lanes.

e. Blue Bikes report:

i. Laura created 2021 year end report for City Council. Funding for 2 more stations; 12,000 trips over the year. Includes info on Pleasant St Commuter Shuttle.

ii. Starting in summer have to pay for operating costs. Laura applied to Mt Auburn Hospital grant program, would help support income eligible members. Let Laura know if have any way to connect to income eligible people, especially bikers.

f. Serving on Committees panel report by Amy. How to get involved in town activities. Several people came tonight, and some people interested in being on our list.

g. Snow Removal update: no scheduled meeting for Council Subcommittee.

5. Old Business:

a. Bike/Ped implementation plan – no news

b. Climate Action Plan: still open for comment.

6. New Business:

a. No updates on Mt Auburn St TIP project from MassDOT. Upcoming meeting on MBTA plans for electrification, including getting rid of catenary wires.

b. Logos: Andy used logo we got from Janet for Faire on the Square for banner. Janet needs one for Yard Art. We are agreed to use that logo.

7. Upcoming meetings:

- 1) [Next Bike-Ped Comm. Meeting Monday, March 7, 2022; 7:30 via Zoom](#)
- 2) [Watertown Mall Project second community meeting, March 1, 2022; 6:30](#)
- 3) MBTA Public Meeting | Bus Electrification Update and North Cambridge Carhouse Design (Virtual) February 15, 2022, 6 PM - 8 PM.