



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JAMIE BURKE, Co-chair
DAN MCKINLEY, Co-chair
ANDY COMPAGNA
SHEILA FAY
JESSE HAMMOND
AMY PLOVNIK
HANNAH RAKOFF
MARIA SAIZ
TIFFANY YORK

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday October 3, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Jamie Burke, Jesse Hammond, Dan McKinley, Amy Plovnick, Hannah Rakoff, Tiffany York, staff: Laura Wiener.

Hannah- working group deliverables discussion. Working Group is discussing rules that govern private development and city property for bike infrastructure.

- city owned: through council or request (example: sidewalks, parks, schools)
- Private development addressed through zoning change to increase requirements for bike parking
- Laura: recommends looking at other cities' bike parking requirements and compare
- Watertown determines bike parking requirement in relation to car parking requirement. May be looked at within the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Amy: while going through process of putting request to city council, maybe go through details on what types of bike racks are better, "low hanging fruit"
- steps: look at Watertown's rules and other surrounding cities (Somerville was recommended)
- recommendation will be addressed to council

Faire on the Square. Bike parking had less utilization than last year, about 50%. Bike parking in other areas was packed. Were there fewer cyclists or did they entered differently? Possibly needed more marketing (outside of FB) to different groups in Watertown to drive engagement.

Comprehensive Plan Meetings

- Hannah: Noted idea of making streets safer, but lack of clarity and commitment to tradeoffs.
- Jesse: seems like the things they have put together have been based on feedback, or they are looking to tweak based on feedback; there was a ranking of priorities in terms of what matters most for open space/recreation board or transportation/mobility board; concurrently doing an Open Space & Recreation Plan while doing the Comprehensive Plan
- Jamie: Feedback from folks who attended, were specific to details

Mt. Auburn Street. Dan suggested submitting a letter responding to the comments.

- public hearing once the 75% design is released- what is the timeline? (tbd)
- working group put together, Dan is writing
- Andy: going public with this, from political perspective we don't want to lose allies, this may be a sensitive endeavor
- recommendation to run it by Rep. Owens and Sen. Brownsberger to see if any feathers ruffled
- concerns that the bike lane isn't protected or updated since 2017 design
- Laura will check on timing of project.
- Dan, Amy, Jamie= working group

New business:

- Possible get your bike ready for spring event
- Stephanie V (farmers market coordinator) offered to come talk to us
- Andy says very successful event in past, commonwheels asked to come; lots of passersby
- Discuss in November. Who will work on this?

Amy: Snow shoveling ordinance, waiting for a meeting of DPW Council Committee.

- Bob Shay sent something out, he has an ad hoc snow removal ordinance committee; he will try to reach out to Vinnie
- we are headed into winter after 1 year with no updates
- Andy will circle back with Bob as well

Upcoming Events

- City Manager meet/greet Oct 11
- Andy: opportunity to be proactive, what's happening with Bike/Ped is not lining up with Comprehensive Plan; could talk about disappointed in Mt Auburn St; Need for culture change.

Closing Comments/Agenda items for next month

- Andy is stepping down as Chair. Need to determine succession by next month, if folks have ideas, please reach out to Andy.