



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

City of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ANDREW COMPAGNA
JAMIE BURKE, CHAIR
SHEILA FAY
TOM FLOROS
JESSE HAMMOND
AMY PLOVnick
HANNAH RAKOFF
MARIA SAIZ
JENNY WANG

MEETING MINUTES

The **Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee** met via Zoom on **Monday October 2, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** Present: Andy Compagna, Jamie Burke (chair), Sheila Fay, Jesse Hammond, Amy Plovnick, Hannah Rakoff, Maria Saiz Tomas Flores, Jenny Wang, Zeke Mermell (new Transportation planner), visitors: Shanta Keller, Mike Albano (DPWW Finance), Laurel Schwab (Watertown Environment Planner)

Following are the meeting minutes:

1. Introductions of Jenny (new member), Zeke Mermell (new Transportation Planner), and all the members and visitors.
2. Acceptance of Minutes for September
3. Climate & Energy Plan – Laurel Schwab: Climate Plan involved lots of input, adopted last August.
 - a. 5 sections that include Transportation, WBPC gave input.
 - b. Plan charges City to create outreach plan. WCCC committee working group trying to look at community engagement, wanting to hear what WBPC is doing. New outreach: Resilient Watertown website so can see action steps people can take. Also new newsletter that WBPC could contribute to. Some ideas: handouts at schools, Safe Routes to School, connect with MassDOT about Safe Routes, promoting alternative transportation to city events – i.e. Faire, Art Market, meetings. Green Streets designs created when got money from State to benefit most heat island areas. Applied for grant but didn't get \$ to build. Francis St on DPW's redesign schedule so being implemented. Looking at ways to restart other plans. DPW adding bump outs and pollinator gardens as do work on streets. Always making sure new development plans are pushed towards climate resilience.
4. Live Well Watertown (LWW)
 - a. Representative to LWW Board – Jamie will be point-person but can't go to meetings. Amy is glad to support. Zeke will be joining some of those meetings so could coordinate between.
 - b. Adult Bike Lessons sub-group w/ LWW: Sheila to work with Stephanie on that.
5. Faire on the Square: plan for next year regarding weather, and request for a tent should go in early so we have one. Signs and banners: Amy to coordinate with Zeke to see about storage at City Hall. Create list of steps needed on Faire – Sheila to start, send to all and Zeke with priorities needed.
6. Working Group discussions:
 - a. Road construction letter sent to DPW by Jamie, no respond back – Mike says it was received, talked to Greg about it. Lots of open positions at DPW.
 - b. Bike Parking zoning amendment: Hannah: working on revision of bike parking requirements for new areas. Paused till after Comprehensive Plan passed. Hannah & Maria to meet with Zeke and see how can be restarted. Look at enforcement of current regulations and education of correct bike parking. Blue Bikes question on new developments. Send Zeke any existing bike parking critiques.
7. New business: Amy's letter about Arsenal Way garage: 5-6 story garage as part of Watertown Mall redevelopment, which would be behind Watertown Greenway, and seems to go against climate goals, and what other options are there vs. creating new big garage. For Planning Board meeting next week. Sub-group: Jamie, Amy, Tom, Jesse, Maria to meet w/ Zeke Thursday.

8. Next meeting agenda item: talk to City about better ways to highlight safety of crosswalk near Cuniff. Watertown Square redesign – how to have input. Snow shoveling going to Council soon.
Working group on Complete Streets – what is the status.
9. Meeting in person: Zeke looking into getting Lower Meeting room for November meeting.

Next Bike-Ped Comm. Meeting: Monday, November 13, 2023, in Lower Hearing Room, City Hall (not yet confirmed). Meanwhile subgroups will meet as needed.