



Watertown Bi-Ped Committee

Monthly Meeting July 9, 2012



Next Meeting
Monday Aug 6 7:30 PM
Administration Building

Attending: Steve Engler, Sheila Fay, Janet Jameson, Maria Saiz, Robert Van Dyk, Peri Onipede, Swaathi Joseph

Guests: Eric Scheier (MBTA), Jon Hecht (State Rep), Christine L (Resident), Gideon Schreiber (Watertown Planner)

#1 Minutes Accepted

#2 Recent Accidents

Three recent accidents were discussed, two between motorists and pedestrians and one between a motorist and a cyclist. On June 11 a pedestrian was struck on Main Street near Cross St (by Upper Crust) during the morning commute and a cyclist was hit in the evening while travelling eastbound by a car turning left into the Tedeschi parking lot. On June 14 a pedestrian was struck at near the Watertown Mall on Arsenal St. Belief is that these situations are isolated, but there is concern that some are linked to areas which are inherently dangerous to cyclists and pedestrians (such that making "Complete Streets" improvements would be justified). Steve to follow up with PD if periodic reports about cyclist or pedestrians involved in accidents (instead of waiting for it to appear in the local news (see the link here: <http://watertown.patch.com/articles/fire-report-two-pedestrians-hit-by-cars-a-bicyclist-runs-into-a-car>).

#3 MAPC Wellness Grant

Michelle Moon conducting stakeholder interviews to learn what the opinions are concerning Watertown wellness ideas. Support for bike lanes is strong. Farmer's market coordination or farm shares are also desired. Michelle will meet with Kathy to talk about next steps for her project soon.

#4 Complete Streets Resolution

Steve is going to work with WCS and Trees for Watertown to discuss Complete Streets Resolution.

#5 Complete Streets Comments

The 6-hour Complete Streets class from Belmont took issue with road configuration #3. Gideon and Danielle took the same class and Gideon mentioned he remembered the course being very quick and would look into possible issues with road configuration #3. No other conclusions made.

#6 Hubway Station MAPC Meeting

The meeting was postponed until Thursday the 12th. Shelia will attend. Steve Magoon will also go.

#7 MBTA Rack Removal

Removing a rack without sufficient notification was a mistake by MBTA, by the PD, and by Public Works. The police detail overseeing the operations to replace a rusted Route 71 electric wire support pole did a good job ensuring public safety, but did not satisfactorily manage cyclists interests leading up to (and during) the project. A rack with two bikes attached to it was removed without any attempts to let people know that rack would be part of any construction project. Shelia will write a letter for Steve to forward to the PD, Public Works, and Town Manager.

#8 MBTA Bus Route 73 Public Meeting

The three stops at Sullivan Road, Marlboro Street, and Langdon Avenue do not appear to have crosswalks nearby. This may be an issue and Steve will write a letter to the MBTA. It was noted that there are maps for MBTA Route 73 Changes and maps for the Belmont Street Improvements, but no maps where these two different projects are shown together.

#9 Watertown Greenway

DCR (acquisitions) is negotiating the Phase 2 section of path between Arlington St and Alewife Station. The section needed is from Arlington St to Fresh Pond, so the extra section all the way to Alewife Station may be slowing the process. Jon Hecht called this the "single most important path within 128". We also discussed the Arsenal Park / Talcott Ave / North Beacon Street Bridge connection. There may be old plans for this in the CTPS that was done by Cathy Lewis.

#10 Green Streets Initiative

This was not discussed.

#11 Mt. Auburn Street Letter

This was not discussed.

#12 MAPC Bike Rack Installations

This was not discussed.

#13 MBTA Bike Parking

The work in the Watertown Square rack installation is planned to begin this month. The MBTA has funds for canopy parking for bicycles in the Watertown Yard area... but no plans or ideas how to best install something that people will be able to use safely. Contention between cyclists, bus riders, and the buses is a major concern and the desire is to allow people to park bikes close to where buses are boarded without forcing them into the bus lanes.

#14 New Business

Nothing discussed.