



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ETHAN DAVIS, CHAIR
SHEILA FAY
ANDY COMPAGNA
JANET JAMESON
MARIA SAIZ
NATALIE TRUESDELL
ETHAN DAVIS
NICK CUTIA
PETER KEPPLER

June 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee Members: Ethan Davis (chair), Sheila Fay, Maria Saiz; Nick Cutia, Andy Compagna, Peter Kepler
Guests: Steve Magoon (Planning Director)

1. New committee member Peter Kepler introduced
2. Approval Of Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting were approved.
3. Designate Secretary To Fill In For Natalie: Peter Kepler filled in as Secretary.
4. DISCUSSION OF BIKE RACK at Central Roc Gym: Steve Magoon described a situation where Central Rock Gym – a relatively new business in Watertown - had installed an additional bike rack due to high bike parking demand. This rack is not in compliance with the bike parking ordinance. Members discussed the desire to encourage local businesses to add bike parking and hope that the code enforcement would not discourage it. They also recognized the need to get code-compliant racks installed. In the future it would be better if the requirements were clearer to businesses, and it was also agreed that the non-compliant rack at Central Rock is better than not having any rack at all.
5. UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:
 - a. ARSENAL FARMERS MARKET ON JUNE 12: the market is located in the parking lot behind the parking garage nearest Panera and Boston Sports Club in the arsenal complex. There is a tent for community organizations and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is to have a table. There was a discussion about making an appearance on June 12 and also having a table one Thursday in July.
 - b. HELMET GIVE-AWAY: is sponsored through a local law firm. The committee discussed the Community Tent as the first opportunity to do this. Ethan was unsure whether he could get the helmets in time for the market on the 12th but would look into it and place an order.
 - c. BIKE PARKING INITIATIVE: The placement of temporary bike racks – which take up one street-side car parking space – in different locations in town was discussed. Main Street in Watertown Square and Mt. Auburn St. in Coolidge Square were identified as the best initial sites. The consensus is that there is a lack of bike parking in these two locations and this effort could serve as a precursor to any possible arrival of Hub Bike. Steve Magoon indicated that two parking spots could likely be secured for this purpose. He asked whether funding would be required for the actual racks and Ethan mentioned that he might be able to borrow one or two from neighborhood communities on a trial basis.
6. BIKE COUNTS: Counting bikers and trips on the streets of Watertown are most easily done in coordination with Livable Street. Their next count is to take place in September. Ethan indicated

the committee can borrow their equipment and do its own count, but counts during the summer while school and college are not in session might not be ideal.

7. POSSIBLE FUTURE EVENTS:

- a. A bike tour of Watertown bakeries and/or pubs was discussed as a favored option for an organized town ride.

8. GREENOUGH BOULEVARD UPDATE: a recent community meeting on the proposed project was held and substantial resistance arose from homeowners living along Coolidge Ave – particularly near the Grove St. Intersection. While a computer-based traffic study has been done showing little impact to traffic by the proposal to reduce the number of lanes on Greenough Blvd, residents are requesting a live test with the lanes blocked off with cones. Members are encouraged to attend future meetings to voice support for the project.

9. MT. AUBURN ST UPDATE: There was discussion of a public meeting in which it was expressed that transit is not being adequately addressed. Traffic calming methods and narrowed pedestrian crossings will make a dedicated bus lane impossible. Steve Magoon mentioned that the plans for the updating/reconfiguring of Mt. Auburn St. are in early stages and can still be influenced.

10. NEW BUSINESS: topics raised in this segment:

- a. Steve Magoon encourage committee members to review the town's comprehensive plan which is now available on the town's website. Opportunities to discuss and raise opinions are forthcoming in a series of town meetings.