



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
Tel. (617) 972-6417
Fax (617) 972-6595

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

October 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee Members: Ethan Davis (chair), Sheila Fay, Maria Saiz; Janet Jameson; Nick Cutia, Andy Compagna, Peter Keppler; Natalie Truesdell;(Gideon Schreiber);

Guests:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Designate Secretary To Fill In For Natalie: Andy Compagna
- b. Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

2. RECAP OF FAIRE ON THE SQUARE:

- a. 60 helmets were distributed in less than 2 hours to children ranging from 6-10.
- b. Sixteen persons subscribed to our email list
- c. Volunteer donations totaled \$76.
- d. Ethan personally spent \$125 on stickers that were also distributed during the Faire.
- e. Members were encouraged to volunteer to design a logo specific to the Bike/Ped committee.
- f. Some planning steps to keep in mind for next year's Faire:
 - i. Canopy – acquire access to a Canopy prior to day of the Faire.
 - ii. Revised maps – many people ask for cycling maps – we need to update our maps prior to the day of the Faire.
 - iii. Helmets and funding – helmet distribution is at the Faire and the Farmers Market have been notable exceptions. Steps should be taken to secure funding and access to helmets prior to Faire day.

3. UPCOMING PRESENTATION/REQUEST TO TOWN COUNCIL: the Bicycle and Pedestrian committee, per it's charter, is obligated to do a presentation (15-20 minutes) to the Town Council each year. Ethan will set up a time to do the presentation and asked the other members of the committee for thoughts and ideas regarding topics to present:

- a. **Bicycle Parking:** safe and convenient bicycle parking has been an ongoing focus for the committee.
- b. **Riding on Sidewalks Ordinance:** the most recent example of the committee's broad commitment to all aspects of improving the bike/ped experience in Watertown including governance and administration.
- c. **Watertown Greenway Connection** (from the existing Watertown Greenway to the Charles River): There was much discussion on this topic as to it becoming a primary, immediate-term focus for the Bike/Ped Committee. With the Fresh Pond Greenway extension and with the Arsenal Project coming on-line, there is an immediate opportunity to push for the design and completion of the 'missing link' – the connection of the Watertown Greenway to the Charles River and subsequently the Charles Dudley White Bike Path along the river into Boston. The Bike/Ped committee sees itself working with appropriate town organizations to:
 - i. Secure any appropriate funding that may be required for design and development.

- ii. Establish the people and/or resources required for the supervision and/or co-ordination of all the parties involved in tying together the four 'sections' of the route that would comprise the 'link':
 - 1. Arsenal Street Crossing: this would appear to be within the town's jurisdiction.
 - 2. Arsenal Mall section: this would appear to be responsibility of parties involved in the Arsenal Project (Boylston Properties? Athena Health?)
 - 3. Arsenal Park section: town property.
 - 4. Greenough Blvd crossing (to the river): DCR responsibility.
- d. **Cycling Transportation Infrastructure:** the Bike/Ped committee would like to work with the appropriate town groups to create a more robust cycling infrastructure across the town. Suggestions include:
 - i. Striping on Mt Auburn – in anticipation of the re-engineering of Mt. Auburn street, should there be a preliminary, proof-of-concept striping performed prior to finalizing the design?
 - ii. Striping on Orchard Street – Orchard street has been newly paved and some striping is under way – should additional striping related to cycling and pedestrians be considered?
 - iii. Cycle Triggers at Signaled Intersections: triggers appear to be faulty at many intersections and missing at others.
 - iv. Crosswalk Locations: specific crosswalks in Watertown appear to present safety issues for pedestrians
 - e. **Hubway:** with all of the exciting bike/ped improvements being planned or developed in Watertown, the committee feels strongly that now is the best time to start working with Hubway and potential sponsors to ensure that Hubway services are in place to take advantage of all of these great initiatives as soon as they are available. Having access to Hubway in a timely manner should actually help to increase the benefit of these projects once they are available.

4. **SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE AND UPDATES:**

- a. Nick will add the subscriber to the site mailing list.
- b. There was discussion as the best way to post articles and links to the town site and/or the committee facebook page.
- c. Nick will investigate how best to integrate the town site with Facebook and Twitter.

5. **BIKE RACK RELOCATION AT ARSENAL PARKING GARAGE:** Maria has discovered that the bike racks in the Arsenal Place parking garage (across from Panerra/Boston Sports Club) have been moved from the front entrance by the staircase to the back corner of the first floor of the garage. This new location has many significant drawbacks: cyclists are forced to ride in the wrong direction to get to the bike racks; the new bike rack area is more crowded; the two bike racks are positioned as a 'vee' where the opening between them is difficult to pass through; the backside of one of the racks is taken up by a parking space; the bike rack area is very dark and discouraging to anyone wanting to use their bike. Gideon has generously volunteered to speak to the appropriate people at Athena Health and/or Beals Company (who manage the garage?).

6. **NEW BUSINESS** (late additions to agenda):

- a. **Natalie Truesdell:** is resigning from the committee as she is moving to Freeport Maine on Friday of this week. Best wishes Natalie, enjoy the biking in Maine.
- b. Watertown Greenway (extension to Fresh Pond): Janet informed the committee that the \$180,000 necessary for the design phase of the Fresh Pond extension has been provided by a combination of the DCR, Athena Health, Hanover and Tufts Health. An RFP for the design phase is scheduled to go out next month (November).