



Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ETHAN DAVIS, CHAIR
ANDREW COMPAGNA
NICK CUTIA
SHEILA FAY
JANET JAMESON
PETER KEPPLER
MARIA SAIZ

November 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee Members: Ethan Davis (chair), Shiela Fay, Janet Jameson, Maria Saiz, Nick Cutia, Andy Compagna, Peter Keppler
Guest: Gideon Schrieber

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

2. **Report on Meeting re: Safety/Maintenance of Charles River Path:**

There had been an assault somewhere along the path - but it turns out there was a domestic assault among residents of a homeless encampment. 200 attendees - State, Newton, Watertown Police.

Question on which police dept do you call (its DCR land). Call 911 in emergency or call state police, or State Rep John Lawn. Complaints aired were numerous. DCR made trail "carry-in, carry out" and this caused other problems. DCR suggested mile markers with town name. Police advised people to call if they see something.

The "Friends of the Minuteman" model for funding maintenance, etc. was discussed.

3. **Continued Discussion of Committee's Mission and Role:**

Proposed Mission Statement -

Andy described the process he went through to draft a version of a mission statement. It was suggested that bicycling as recreation as well as a form of transportation be included. Sheila suggested criteria used by the League of American Bicyclists "bicycle friendly cities" for rating cities. Some edits were discussed and will be drafted into a version targeted for voting on next month.

Proposed Projects-

Off-street bike paths, integration of cycling into transportation/roadway projects, Watertown as a hub for cycling/tying surrounding town resources and initiatives together. Committee as focus for information - at Faire on the Square, The Farmers Market, - outreach and connecting with other entities. Snow shoveling and other safety issues, infrastructure projects. Trail mapping, bike lanes - e.g. NYC maps at bike shops. Watertown Transportation Management Association (TMA) mentioned as a potential resource. Enforcement and things like striping. Off road bike paths, outreach events. Members should think about these and choose what they might want to work on outside of committee time.

Proposed Format of Meetings- tabled until December meeting.

4. **Vacancies on Committee:** Getting the word out to prospective new members. Should consider Work/Bike/Walk to Watertown Representative: Ethan requested that committee members reach out to friends and acquaintances. Could non-residents be asked? Could we change the rules? Gideon suggested we could identify a slot on the committee allocated to X group (someone who works in Watertown). Would probably mean a change to the charter.