



# Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

Town of Watertown  
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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ETHAN DAVIS, CHAIR  
ANDREW COMPAGNA  
NICK CUTAIA  
SHEILA FAY  
JANET JAMESON  
MARIA SAIZ  
SAM SCOPPETTONE

## October 3, 2016 MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

### Attendees:

Committee Members: Ethan Davis (chair), Janet Jameson, Maria Saiz, Andy Compagna, Sam Scoppettone, Gideon Schreiber (Town Planning)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from September 12, 2016 meeting were approved.
2. **Recap of Faire in the Square and Watertown Moves Events:** Ethan provided a summary of the events, noting that names were collected, and around 100 helmets were given away. They had featured a poster of the proposed/existing bike path corridor. People were sent an email encouraging them to come to Watertown Moves event. That event was well attended, and some t-shirts are leftover. Andy commented that we need more and better materials for tabling, such as maps. Discussion ensued about materials used to engage the public. (Maria arrived at 7:45.) Gideon commented that Watertown Walks maps are almost gone. Andy and Maria volunteered to work together on preparing Faire in the Square for next year. Discussion ensued about future events. Ethan suggested closing down Charles River roads to autos in Spring.
3. **Recap of Meeting with Watertown Police Liaison:** Ethan summarized his meeting with Sergeant Sampson, who is interested in helping out. He explained that Chief Lawn is an advocate of community policing, and that part of that involves police being on foot or on bike more, interacting with the community (as opposed to remaining in their cruisers). Ethan shared an article with the Sergeant about how police respond to car-bike collisions, and was told that the police take these crashes very seriously. They discussed compiling data on collisions, and the issue of distracted driving becoming more prevalent. Ethan commented on the need to enforce rules of the road against cyclists. Discussion ensued.
4. **Bike Rodeo:** Ethan provided a quick update on the "bike rodeo" scheduled for October 20, a partnership between the Boys & Girls Club and MassDOT. Janet suggested inviting Dan Driscoll (DCR) to next meeting to discuss Greenway to Fresh Pond. Discussion ensued about when the November meeting would take place. It was decided that it would be November 10.
5. **Update on Arsenal Connector:** Gideon and Andy gave an update on planned bike access to Arsenal Park as part of the Boylston Properties redevelopment (Arsenal Mall). There was a meeting with Jeff Heidelberg, in which plans showed sharrows, but other plans showed dedicated bike lanes. The issue of how best to accommodate children and families given the space constraints has not been resolved. Gideon said his staff report would say sharrows are not acceptable. Discussion ensued about inviting Jeff Heidelberg to the upcoming meeting.
6. **Complete Streets Update:** Gideon explained that there is no update on the Complete Streets policy. It needs to go to Council for adoption but it has been delayed for various other priorities. There is nothing for the Committee to do.
7. Other Business:
  - a. CPA: Janet explained that the CPA group would really like an endorsement. Sam asked if it was appropriate for an official Town committee to endorse. Consensus was that it was appropriate given that the committee has a role in promoting recreational amenities and livability. Maria made a motion that the Committee endorse the CPA, and to encourage residents to vote in favor. The motion was 5 in favor, 0 against.

- b. Moving Together: Gideon mentioned that he went to a session at the Moving Together conference about advocacy groups, and summarized some examples of events that were featured such as the Boston Bike Party and Boston midnight bike ride.
- c. Nichols Ave./Arlington St. intersection: Janet suggested adding the Nichols Ave. intersection to the next agenda, noting that the planned improvements need more discussion.
- d. Andy asked how we can ensure recurring issues don't slip through the cracks.