



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED
OFFICIALS:

Report of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Meeting Date: September 16, 2019

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays
Councilor At Large

Anthony J. Donato,
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

The Committee convened on Wednesday September 25, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the Louis P. Andrews Upper Conference Room. Present were Kenneth Woodland, chair; Lisa Feltner, vice chair; and Vincent Piccirilli, secretary. Staff present were Steven Magoon, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Community Development and Planning; Laura Wiener, Senior Transportation Planner. Also present were Councilors Caroline Bays, Anthony Donato, and Anthony Palomba.

The purpose of the meeting was:

1. Consideration of a Marijuana Local Option Tax.
2. Consideration of a Regional Electric Scooter Policy.

Marijuana Local Option Tax

The Committee discussed the Local Option Tax for Recreational Marijuana Sales Tax M.G.L Chapter 64N Section 3 (Attachment A). Note that medical marijuana sales are exempt from this tax.

→ **Action Item:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Feltner, to recommend that the Town Council adopt Chapter 64N Section 3 for a 3% Marijuana Sales Tax. Voted 3-0.

Regional Electric Scooter Policy

Ms. Wiener noted the memo of August 1st seeking policy guidance from the Town Council on how to proceed (Attachment B). She noted the following:

1. Micro-mobility is a growing part of the urban transportation infrastructure.
2. Electric scooters are currently illegal in Massachusetts, but the legislature is working on a fix.
3. New legislation is expected to pass in the spring of 2020.
4. Brookline currently has 400 electric scooters, with an average of 4 trips per scooter per day.
5. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is working on a regional strategy for electric scooters.
6. As a side note, LimeBike notified the Town that they will not be renewing their contract next year.

→ **Action Item:** Councilor Piccirilli made a motion, seconded by Councilor Feltner, to recommend that the Town Council ask the Administration to continue discussions with the MAPC and surrounding communities on electric scooters, and come back to this Committee after legislation is passed in order to decide how best to proceed. Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.
Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli

Attachment A - M.G.L Chapter 64N Section 3 Local Option Marijuana Tax
Attachment B - Memo dated August 1, 2019 requesting policy guidance on electric scooters

Attachment A**Part I** ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**Title IX** TAXATION**Chapter 64N** MARIJUANA TAX**Section 3** LOCAL TAX OPTION

Section 3. (a) A city or town that accepts this section in the manner provided in section 4 of chapter 4 may impose a local sales tax upon sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the city or town to anyone other than a marijuana establishment at a rate not greater than 3 per cent of the total sales price received by the marijuana retailer as a consideration for the sale of marijuana or marijuana products. The marijuana retailer shall pay the local sales tax imposed under this section to the commissioner at the same time and in the same manner as the sales tax due to the commonwealth.

(b) All sums received by the commissioner under this section shall, at least quarterly, be distributed, credited and paid by the treasurer and receiver-general upon certification of the commissioner to each city or town that has accepted this section in proportion to the amount of the sums received in that city or town. Any city or town seeking to dispute

the commissioner's calculation of its distribution under this subsection shall notify the commissioner, in writing, not later than 1 year from the date the tax was distributed by the commissioner to the city or town.

(c) This section shall take effect in a city or town on the first day of the calendar quarter following 30 days after its acceptance by the city or town or on the first day of a later calendar quarter that the city or town may designate.



Michael J. Driscoll
Town Manager

TOWN OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the Town Manager

Attachment B

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
townmgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager
Date: August 1, 2019
RE: Scooters

Attached please find email correspondence regarding the subject from Steven Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning/Assistant Town Manager.

Mr. Magoon will bring this up under Communications from the Town Manager at the August 13, 2019 Town Council Meeting and respectfully request the matter be referred to Committee for policy consideration and guidance by the Honorable Town Council.

cc: Department Heads

Hand, JoAnna

From: Driscoll, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 8:27 AM
To: Hand, JoAnna
Subject: FW: Scooters
Attachments: Scooter summary 7-23-19.docx

Please see me, thanks.

From: Magoon, Steven
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 5:47 PM
To: Driscoll, Michael <mdriscoll@watertown-ma.gov>; Sideris, Mark <msideris@watertown-ma.gov>
Cc: Wiener, Laura <lwiener@watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: FW: Scooters

Please see below and attached information regarding the potential for shared scooter service in Watertown. Staff has been participating in discussions about this and would like to get policy guidance from the Honorable Town Council. Therefore I would respectfully request this be placed on a Town Council agenda for referral to the Economic Development and Planning subcommittee. Thank you for your consideration.

From: Wiener, Laura
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 3:18 PM
To: Magoon, Steven <smagoon@watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: Scooters

Steve—I have been working with Planners from MAPC, Boston, Cambridge and Somerville on planning for scooters. I am looking for guidance regarding Watertown's interest in moving forward with planning for scooters. Attached is a memo with a summary of what I have learned. Please let me know if you would like to discuss further.

Laura Wiener, AICP
Senior Transportation Planner
Watertown Community Development and Planning
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
(617) 972-6417 * 12183



Steve Magoon
Director

smagoon@watertown-ma.gov

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Community Development and Planning
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To: Steve and Gideon
From: Laura
Date: July 23, 2019
Re: Scooters

Here is a summary of information about scooters that I got from working with MAPC and Boston, Brookline, Cambridge and Somerville. I thought it would be useful for you to have it before we talk to Mully on Wednesday at 3:00. Steve, this is not the memo for the council, but that memo will include this information.

1. Legislation still in process. Won't be dealt with before the fall. Expected to cover:
 - Liability insurance—scooter companies will be required to carry some amount of liability insurance
 - Operating speed capped at 15 mph
 - Operation allowed on recreational paths, and sidewalks if not prohibited by local government.
 - MassDOT regulates vehicle specs, age restrictions, and safety
 - Town manages the companies and operations
 - Can license and charge a fee to maintain infrastructure
 - Can limit number of scooters.

2. Issues identified in Brookline
 - Bad parking. Not generally enforced by companies
 - Proposed solutions: corrals in bump-outs, on street, taking a parking space, reporting by next rider
 - Response time to complaints
 - Data privacy concerns
 - Geo-fencing ability—bikes are currently limited to Brookline

3. Proposed process for introducing Regional Shared Electric Scooters in Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, Somerville, and Watertown.

- MAPC will create minimum criteria, screen the applicants, and then conduct a lottery to choose up to 3 vendors.
 - Vendors then apply for permit from Town. Some requirements can be developed jointly.
 - Shooting for spring, 2020 launch, assuming legislation passes.
4. Questions for Watertown:
- Who does permitting?
 - Where do we want them to park? How to encourage appropriate parking.
 - Where do we allow them? Sidewalk, bike paths, bike lanes?
 - Enforcement
 - May need to change some on-street regulations.
5. Brookline experience:
- Over 60,000 trips in 2 ½ months. Average 4 trips/scooter/day. 250 scooters. Can only be ridden in Brookline.
 - 2 vendors now—Lime and Bird. Each allowed 125 scooters. Looking to add a third vendor, probably Spin.
 - Permit fee: \$1000 plus \$1/scooter/day. Permitting through Licensing Board. Each vendor is paying Brookline roughly \$3500/month. Permit money is going toward enforcement by Police details, and education and training. Vendors run trainings at a local school.
 - Tracking mode shift by survey. 20% report using it instead of a vehicle. 20% report using it to connect to public transit.
 - Took 2-3 weeks to get started, get adjusted. Coming together now.
 - Complaints largely from seniors.
 - Lots of riders 16-18 years old using for after school transportation. Not legal but they seem to have their parents' consent, and credit cards.