



Watertown Bi-Ped Committee

Monthly Meeting February 7, 2011



Next Meeting
Monday, March 7, 7:30 PM
Administration Building

Minutes of Watertown Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee

Present: Steve Engler, Sheila Fay, Maria Saiz, Janet Jameson, Natalie Truesdell, Rob Van Dyk, Danielle Evans, Brad Parsons

* Item: Snow Removal

- Exploring possible grant from Walk Boston through Tufts to assist seniors who can not clear their snow
 - Letter of intent has been submitted, funding is for ~\$12K
- Committee discussed snow removal and the impressive amount of snow which has fallen this season
 - It was expressed that the status quo is not working for anybody; cyclists, pedestrians and motorists
 - Discussed the idea of leaving accolades at homes that have done a good job shoveling sidewalks and also some sort of communication to those who have not

* Item: Community Safe Routes to School

- Announced that new bike racks are coming to the schools

* Item: Charles River Ale/wife Connector Path

- Meeting was held in January regarding Phase 2
 - Determined to go in heavy on the railroad to wrap up last 8/10ths of a mile, either offering tax credits or some kind of good will
 - Land acquisition will be handled by DCR
 - ~\$150K left over from phase 1, might be used towards acquisition and not design as the committee had hoped
 - This project is high on the list as it will link a lot of current paths
- Committee is still exploring Safe User guide for bike week, Natalie to investigate

* Item: Community Path

- Danielle Evans discussed recent parking lot that was paved over designated community path space
 - Property owners claimed to have approval, could not produce documents; they have been given three options
 1. Restore the property as it was
 2. Redesign it to accommodate community path
 3. Completely start over
- Haartz Mason project to have development on Howard Street as well as Pleasant St.
 - Committee to draft letter and members to attend February sub committee meeting to support project if concessions are made for Howard Street and more bike parking

* Item: Town Council Annual Update

- Committee would like to present to the town Council
 - Believed that Mari has full version of last years' presentation
 - Items to add for the past year include Tufts University study, path construction, MBTA parking, digital media advances, Phase 2 progress, and site plan reviews

* Item: Bicycle Master Plan Update

- Time has come to review and revise plan as necessary
- More long term vision and over all, big picture ideals need to be incorporated
- Need to speak with Steve Magoon to make sure we're not reinventing the wheel

* Item: Updated bicycle parking ordinance

- Committee wants to revise current ordinance to include residential development as current ordinance speaks only to residential development and therefore tied to building size. This approach does not work for residential development as parking allowance should reflect number of units.

*** Item: MBTA Bike Parking**

- Project is out for bid

*** Item: Traffic Commission**

- It has been suggested that a member from the committee should also sit on the Traffic Commission
 - Makes sense as current commission seems to consist of electricians and police officers
 - One problem is that the commission meets during the day, would be tough for a committee member to consistently make this meeting