

### **1.7.13 Watertown Bike and Pedestrian Committee Minutes**

**Attendees: Steve Engler, Chair; Sheila Fay; Janet Jameson; Maria Saiz; Natalie Truesdell**

**Guests: Town Residents- Alex Capagna, Nick Cutait, Amy Grove**

1. Acceptance of Minutes

2. Wellness grant: Application due 1/11/2013. We brainstormed ideas for the new round of funding. One idea of interest is to support Safe Routes of School. One approach may be to see if Jeannette Belcher-Shepis can take the lead with the grant. Gideon can support the writing of the grant if Jeannette is interested.

3. MAPC Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program and Livable Community Workshops. The committee decided that there is not enough bandwidth to request this assistance.

4. Watertown Food and Fitness Access Summit 3/12. This is being organized by Judy Fallows. Planning meeting the week of 1/14/2012. Gideon will be attending the planning meeting. This is through a grant to CHNA 17. Gideon has also discussed plans with connecting with Waltham. Gideon will send out the information on the planning call. The audience for the summit is community organizers, decision makers. The actual summit will be 3/12 at the Watertown Library (3-7pm). The committee should consider bringing maps and other materials.

5. Watertown Greenway.

A) Phase 2 Progress: No update on phase 2.

B) Connection to Charles River: Steve Engler reached out to Vinny Piccirilli and received a response that it was complicated. Gideon noted that with limited town funds, there is a current priority on the connection between Mt. Auburn Street to Library- pedestrian corridor. This area had damage during recent storms, and the idea is to incorporate a long term solution. We discussed that we should continue to pursue the opportunities for the funding and start on writing the RFP. Steve Engler is willing to begin writing an RFP and he may reach out to the MAPC Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program to see if they can support us.

C) Mural Project Update: Letters were written to 15 mural artists. The committee identified those that had worked with the community and kids before. All of the artists they solicited are interested. They would like to get people representing the community to choose the artist. They have \$14,000.

6. Liveable Streets Green Routes Coalition: The regional coalition for non-car routes. They had a recent meeting and they are looking for people to volunteer for this group. Steve Engler will forward information. We may want to invite them to attend to one of our meetings.

7. Safe Routes to School Preliminary Assessment: Gideon put together a map of where all the students live. The catchment area for Hosmer school is quite large. Gideon provided maps on the elementary service areas. Preferred improvements for transportation to the schools for safety. They want to know if

there are any projects planned. One improvement is moving the crossing light from Oakley road to Boylston Road. There is no document or reports. Gideon received accident bike and pedestrian reports from the police department and they include the street but not the cross street. Gideon is trying to get more detail.

8. Committee Membership: We have 5 members on the committee. We have slots up to 9 committee members. One person has submitted an application.

9. Website and blog: Looking for new member to take this on.

10. New Business

-Greenough Boulevard: The status of this is that they are continuing to identify supporters.

-Comprehensive Plan Update: Community Immersion Day: Sasaki and VHB were given a tour on the fabric of Watertown and history. There were interviews with key community leaders to identify initials, thoughts, and issues. The next step is the community meeting, but there is no date set. VHB is the leader, and Sasaki is sub.

-January 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting for the Elizabeth Warren Group. 75% of Watertown residents voted. Coolidge apartments on Arlington Street. 7-9pm.

-Snow removal: Town removal of snow was of very poor quality during the last snow storm. Removal around the corridors of the schools was missed. The curb cuts, and the sidewalks were partially done. There is more need for enforcement of the ordinance. Many people were required to work on the road. We have no law requiring shoveling.