



Watertown Bi-Ped Committee

Monthly Meeting February 2, 2009



Next Meeting
Monday, March 2, 7:30 PM
Administration Building

Minutes of Watertown Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee

Present: Fred Hewett, Peter Brooks, Mari Ryan, Steve Engler, Sheila Fay, Maria Saiz, Sue Tamber, Janet Jameson, Jeannette Belcher-Schepis, Brad Parsons

* Item: Safe Routes to School

Jeannette discussed winter plans and initiatives for CSRS.

- Winter Wonderland Walks in Watertown to encourage students to walk to school in the winter
- Need to generate more parental involvement, participation forms have been sent out to parents, a few have returned
- Would like to create a parent subcommittee in each school and this will be addressed at the next PTO meeting
- On-line Walkability Survey ready to be released, will be through survey monkey. All parents will be invited to participate.
- Tentative date for town wide meeting on walking and safety.
 - 1) February 25th from 7:00 to 8:15 PM
 - 2) MADPH has a panelist they will send
 - 3) Mass Rides to attend as well
 - 4) List of invites include School Committee, Town Council, State Representatives and Governor's Office
- Jeannette Belcher-Schepis will present a webinar in March for CSRTS
- Child drop off at Hosmer has turned into a 'big problem'. Limited parking and parents are live parking and walking their kids to their classroom. Police have suggested mandatory meeting for new parents in order to go over rules. Coffee meeting scheduled on March 13th with Hosmer principle and parents. A few WBPC members expressed surprise that parents are walking the kids to their classroom as opposed to just dropping them off at school.
- March 21st is the kick off for Walking School Buses and Pennies for Pedestrians. \$300 has been donated from Watertown Savings Bank with a possible match from WholeFoods. The goal is to raise money for new books.
- May 6th is Massachusetts Walk to School Day
- Various funding opportunities were discussed.
 - Watertown Education Fund; Shaw's has funding for wellness programs; Maria presented the Jenny Jones Foundation

* Item: Bicycle Friendly Community

- Each member of the WBPC is to decide which of the 5 E's they would like to focus on. ACTION ITEMS:
 - Identify 5 intersections in the city of Watertown that are dangerous and need improvement
 - Each member to evaluate the "state of the community" per BFC criteria
- City of Boston is also pursuing BFC designation

* Item: Miscellaneous

- Would like to have the Town Planner attend our April meeting, need to prepare an agenda or outline for this meeting
- There is still one open position on the committee
- Committee discussed the Bicycle Bill of Rights, the WBPC needs to truly understand this legislation.
- Committee discussed frustrations over sidewalks that are not cleared in a timely fashion after snow storms