



Watertown Bi-Ped Committee

Monthly Meeting March 2, 2009



Next Meeting
Monday, April 6th, 7:30 PM
Administration Building

Minutes of Watertown Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee

Present: Fred Hewett, Peter Brooks, Mari Ryan, Steve Engler, Maria Saiz, Brad Parsons

* Item: Safe Routes to School

Mari discussed past month activities:

- Town Wide Middle School safety meeting organized and facilitated by Jeannette Belcher-Schepis
 - four town councilors, three principals, two WBPC members, two parents, one crossing guard, 1 school committee member, and three guests attended
 - meeting was poorly attended by parents in spite of two separate notices, which were sent home as well as district wide connected messages both before and after the school vacation
 - Disappointment was expressed that no representation from the police department was present
 - Main topics were shoveling snow to clear sidewalks and traffic in school zones
- Walking Wednesdays to resume this Spring
- May 6th is the Massachusetts Walk to School Day
- Jeannette is in the process of working with the school department to provide a link to CSRTS Traffic and Safety/ Walkability Survey in order to get a better sense of where parents stand on issues due to poor response with the survey via the PTO's.

* Item: Sidewalk Snow removal Ordinance

- Committee discussed letter to be submitted to the TAB voicing our support of the ordinance
- Committee discussed the following concerns:
 - Snow being plowed onto curb cuts makes it difficult for homeowners to clear the cuts
 - Issues surrounding enforcement and potential liability to homeowners
- Ideas for helping seniors connect with people to help with shoveling included community service requirements for high school students and postings at the senior center

* Item: Bicycle Friendly Community

- WBPC members designated to the areas of the application
 - Engineering is Peter & Steve
 - Encouragement is Sheila & Maria
 - Enforcement is Brad
- Steve presented spreadsheet that he's using for engineering and it can be applied to each area
- Steve to post spreadsheet on the google documents
- Brad to begin relationship with Watertown Police Department, to discuss the Bill of Rights, etc.
- Group discussed hosting another ride this year, Maria will research
- Group discussed ideas for reaching out to the community via a bike workshop format

* Item: Miscellaneous

- Fred to contact Town Manager regarding open position
- Mari presented proposed Massachusetts legislation that specifically calls out funding for SRTS
- Mari to put letter together expressing support for the Transportation Bill
- Members expressed need to invite Town Planner to a meeting so our views can be voiced before projects are initiated.