



# Watertown Bi-Ped Committee

Monthly Meeting June 1, 2009



**Next Meeting**  
**Monday, July 6, 7:30 PM**  
**Administration Building**

## Minutes of Watertown Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee

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

### \* Item: Snow Shoveling

- Council Member Vincent Piccirilli and Chief of Police Edward Deveau attended meeting to discuss snow removal in Watertown
- Chief Deveau is keen on a “key routes” approach versus a town wide ordinance
- To begin this would included all streets around schools
- The belief is there would have to be a town ordinance designating the “key routes” and approved by the Town Council in order to impose fines
- Chief Deveau believes the Watertown Police has the resources to enforce area ordinances
- Council Member Piccirilli dicussed the current 3 snow ordinances all ready in place
- Once of these ordinances is that blocking sidewalks with shoveled snow is illegal
- Some key questions and points brought up by the WBPC
  - What would the town be responsible for versus residents in these key routes?
  - There has to be buy in from Watertown residents to make this work
  - Frustration was expressed over lack of enforcing current oridinaces
  - Janet suggested that in town wide calls from the police department during snow events that a reminder is mentioned that ordinances will be enforced
  - Mari suggested that children who walk to school participate in community awareness for their routes
  - Fred recommended adding snow routes to the Watertown Walking Map
- Council Member Piccirilli recommended that the WBPC create a plan with recommendations and present it to the Town Manager and take on the public awareness campaign

### \* Item: Safe Routes to School

Jeannette’s recent updates regarding CSRS

- May 6<sup>th</sup> was Massachusetts Walk to School Day and there was good participation despite the weather. Hosmer had a school wide walk at 10:00 once the weather had cleared; Cunniff & Lowell declined a school wide walk due to the half day
- Pennies for Pedestrians has been extended for an additional week
- Ruth Bender is retiring so a running list of her supporting tasks needs to be created
- Jeannette coordinated Bike Safety Training for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at all schools, which was a massive achievement considering how many groups and people were involved in this effort. This was paid for by extra funding from Mass Rides
  - 1) June 5<sup>th</sup> is Hosmer
  - 2) June 11<sup>th</sup> is Cunniff (5<sup>th</sup> grade only)
  - 3) June 15<sup>th</sup> is Lowell
- Update on grants
  - 1) O’Neil grant is still pending
  - 2) Mass in Motion grant was not awarded
  - 3) Watertown Community Foundation was approved and additional funds were offered. Applied for \$1,800 and received \$2,500
- Plan on expanding “Walk-tober” to include a family fun night and carbon footprint exhibit
  - 1) Mari is working with the Parks Department to secure permits and the publisher to help with publicity for Story walk and there is potential for extra money to include an Armenian translation

**\* Item: Watertown Walking Map**

- Prototype for map is being worked out with WBPC, Bob Sloan, Health Department and Steve Magoon all participating
- Funding is from Tufts Healthcare
- Looking to print 10K copies but also have in on-line

**\* Item: Crosswalk Enforcement Grant**

- Mari presented on the this grant, ranges from \$5K to \$7.5K
- Program to run from October to April, pairs officers and volunteers during rush hours to make sure vehicles are stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks