

# WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD

## December 6, 2018 MEETING NOTES

### I. Introductions

Bob Charland who founded [Pedal Thru Youth](#) described his program of fixing up bicycles and donating them to students through schools in Springfield and in the greater western Mass and CT area. We recommended that he connect with [Peter Kuusisto](#) of the Safe Routes to School program.

**II. City “Rules of the Road” revisions** – Next step, get a full copy of the current Rules so they can be compared to the proposed changes. (Obtained!) The proposed changes have been referred to the City Council’s Maintenance and Development Sub-committee – the Rules will be on the agenda on Dec. 11.

We discussed that there are inconsistencies in the proposed changes and a failure to include items related to Complete Streets elements and to differentiate among bicycle types and other single person conveyances (motorized and non-motorized.) There is also no reference to compliance with Massachusetts General Laws.

**III. Non-motorized wheel Park** – An email from Mike Tully of the Parks Department who has been charged with developing conceptual designs was read. He has reached out to, but not connected yet with Deryk Roach of Burlington VT Parks who used to work with Mike in Springfield and has a recently completed a model destination skatepark.  
<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Skatepark>

Mike felt we shouldn’t focus too much on any location until there is more consensus about how much can be raised/spent on the facility, and therefore whether it is a destination park versus a smaller park that might be able to more quickly serve Springfield youth (or both). Mike is also discussing with David Bloniarz about possible funding through the U.S. Forest Service.

It is hoped that a meeting in January will be scheduled to get more input on what is most broadly desired.

### IV. EVENTS

Report on **WalkMassachusetts Network** first meeting on Dec. 1 – Betsy and Doug Johnson, Deborah Huber, and Charlie Knight represented WalkBike Springfield at this first gathering of this new initiative of WalkBoston. <https://walkboston.org/walkmanetwork/> Representatives from over 12 communities attended. We discussed areas of common concern. Next step, participate in the new online forum.

Report on annual meeting of **Mass Bike Pioneer Valley** on Dec. 4 – Alex reported that we had great showing from the southern valley area (Holyoke/Springfield). Todd Crosset is now also on the board. Brandon from Gardening the Community told how the MassBike PV grants has helped improve their ability to deliver vegetables by bicycle.

Report on **Day of Remembrance** on Nov. 18 – A moving event. “Shadow figures” were placed where there had been fatalities in the past year. Need to get the City to commit to a Vision Zero effort.

### NEXT MEETINGS:

**January 3 and February 7**