

Meeting Minutes

Salem Bicycling & Shared Path Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 | 6:15 p.m.

City Hall Annex 1st Floor Meeting Room & Via Remote Participation

Members Present: John Wathne (Chair), Josiah Guthrie (Vice Chair), Kevin Jordan, Craig Bilodeau, Alexa Ogno, Josh Nagle

Members Absent: Emmylou Manwill, Matt Caruso, Annie Wolf

Also Present: Tom Devine, Senior Planner

Call Meeting to Order

Wathne calls the meeting to order.

Public Comment

Stacy Kilb, the City's Sustainability Engagement Coordinator, speaks about the upcoming Volt & Vibe PEV event at the bike path at the Salem State University Central Campus on September 19. Ogno is interested in tabling for the Committee.

A member of the public speaks later in the meeting. She lives on Jefferson Ave. and works near the Lynn border. She advocates for bike lanes on Jefferson Ave. She notes that the website incorrectly lists the meeting start time as 6:30pm. Devine will correct this.

Guthrie motions, Bilodeau seconds, and all vote in favor to make 6:15 pm their regular meeting time.

Discussion of Bike Master Plan and Role of the Committee

Guthrie suggests dedicating the time for this item to preparation for a discussion with the DPW Director.

Devine spoke briefly with Patti Kelleher (Salem's Preservation Planner) about Friends of Greenlawn Cemetery to explore the non-profit model. The nonprofit status gave the group fundraising ability and they were instrumental in getting the cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated as an arboretum. The status also gave the group some independence to speak with its own voice separate from the City. Volunteers established the non-profit on their own and complete regular annual reporting, which is understood to require substantial time and effort.

Nagle adds from his recent experience establishing a non-profit that there is indeed some work involved. The group wonders whether it would make sense to instead join a chapter of a bigger nonprofit, like MassBike, League of American Bicyclists, or People for Bikes. Alexa may contact one of these groups.

The group suggests Devine follow up to learn whether there is any limit on members of Friends of Greenlawn serving on the City's Cemetery Commission.

Discussion of Proposed Committee Logo

Guthrie asks to take this of the future agendas.

Bikeshare Program Updates

Devine reports that he has met with staff from Beverly and Lynn to discuss potential Bluebikes expansion throughout the North Shore and is scheduled to meet with Swampscott. He also intends to contact other neighboring municipalities. Ogno requests information on e-bike ridership. Devine states that the Bluebikes station at Salem State's North Campus was relocated permanently from the Alumni Plaza at the Campus Center to Loring Ave. in front of Meier Hall.

Ogno expresses concern about the bike racks installed at Remond School. They are squiggly racks, not the more preferred and usable inverted U type. Devine expresses regret at not being involved to make sure all are aware that the Bike Committee has done previous work to make clear what types of racks are recommended.

Events

Ogno is planning a taco ride, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 27 at noon. The group wishes to participate in the October 1st Haunted Happenings Parade. Devine will register the group.

Potential DPW Attendance at Future Meeting

The committee discussed inviting the DPW Director to a future meeting to develop a collaborative approach to winter snow removal, particularly in bike lanes. Members emphasized that the conversation should be constructive rather than adversarial, with a clear agenda focused on identifying priorities such as keeping bike lanes and multiuse paths clear, addressing issues on North Street, exploring curb-to-curb plowing and enforcement options, and understanding DPW's operational challenges. The committee also wants to learn about DPW's resource needs and explore how it can support infrastructure design, public education, and advocacy for additional resources. Wathne may wish to prepare a letter of invitation, and the meeting would begin with introductions, appreciation for DPW's efforts, and a discussion of realistic expectations and opportunities for collaboration.

Transportation Commission Update

Ogno was not present at the most recent meeting. Topics included truck safety with side guards and signage as well as designated rideshare dropoff areas in downtown.

Staff Update

Devine passed along to colleagues the request to have a option in See-Click-Fix where one can request a bike rack the way there is to request a tree planting. Transportation Staff will be looking at potential new bike rack locations after October and suggestions from the Committee are welcome.

Devine announces that the City is evaluating a potential contraflow bike lane on Goodhue Street when it is restriped, as suggested by Councilor Holappa.

Devine notes that Manwill has resigned from the Committee and he expects her to remain on the Transportation Commission.

Meeting Minutes

There are no draft minutes to review.

Adjourn

Bilodeau motions, Nagle seconds, and all vote in favor to adjourn at 7:25pm.

Approved by the Bicycling & Shared Path Advisory Committee on 10/7/2026.