

SWAG General Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, May 20, 2023 - 10:00 am  
Salem Common Gazebo

- 1.) Review of minutes from 4/1/2023 meeting - no comments, approved.
- 2.) Review of urgent safety concerns since last meeting
  - a.) SeeClickFix (SCF) often best option for city-owned action items
  - b.) JN - city has a public request form for traffic calming projects <\$25K, can access via <http://salemma.gov/traffic-calming/pages/neighborhood-traffic-calming-program>
  - c.) ET - "No Turn On Red" (NTOR) sign at Bridge/Washington - currently obstructed by tree. Submitted request via SCF for tree trimming, but would benefit from being moved to overhead lines next to traffic signal - better visibility, removing the sign post would also increase sidewalk accessibility. Could also add a flashing light. Ward 2 - will email CW-F a proposal.
  - d.) MS - traffic islands removed at New Derby/Hawthorne due to being "unsafe for cars" and increasing opportunities for panhandling. Leaves pedestrians less protected, busy intersection, loss of traffic calming. Ward 1 - Acting Mayor Bob McCarthy? Will email request for information (ET).
  - e.) RT - Essex Street near the public library - poorly lit, crosswalks aren't safe. Ward 2 - also CW-F. This is a longer-term project.
  - f.) JN - N. Washington Square crosswalks (generally) - people still speeding, would be good opportunity for raised crosswalks/traffic calming. DP/MS agree; this is a longer-term project. Also CW-F. Will focus on Roger Conant statue intersection for 6/3 event (see below).
- 3.) 6/3 Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day event - specifically, east-west crosswalk across Hawthorne at Brown, between Goodnight Fatty and the Common. Will focus on road-guarding for pedestrians that day, should be achievable with ~6 participants. During Salem Arts Fest, so should be heavy pedestrian traffic that day. If high turnout, can also adopt other crossings for the event.
  - a.) T-shirts - ET has pre-ordered 8 lime green shirts for the event, prototype design - will look into a larger sale after event. Can also borrow high-viz vests from Beautification Committee if desired (BN).
  - b.) signage/stickers - JN can laminate a QR code sign for email signup. ET to look into stickers, already have logo QR code made up (AS).
  - c.) table setup - per DP/MS, no need for permit if we are just standing/handing out materials, would need permit for a table. ET has emailed Tricia O'Brien, no response - will try again (copy JC/MS per their recommendation), if still no response, can probably just set up anyway (ET to bring small tailgate table).
  - d.) police support - DP rec notify police, ET will do.
  - e.) media/PR - MS rec letter to editor of Salem News prior to event to broaden reach, ET will do. Will set up FB event and email to Dustin Luca. Alice Merkl requested flier/infographic, will include in her weekly newsletter.
  - f.) fundraising - Venmo/QR code, T-shirt sales, etc. - long term goal but can start at 6/3 event.
- 4.) Bicycling outreach/community events
  - a.) Bike Parties - last was 5/12, Pride Ride (June) not yet announced, should be on Bike Party FB page, will distribute to SWAG membership when announced
  - b.) Bike buses - bike with Carlton elementary students to school, weekly on Fridays at 8:00 am, coordinated by Christine Madore, general public participation encouraged
  - c.) Building relationship with Bicycling and Shared Path Advisory Committee - can send SWAG representation to meetings, first Wednesday of each month
- 5.) Saltonstall Safe Cycling Coalition project (JC) - proposed by 8th graders at Saltonstall School at 5/11 city council meeting, proposed adding protected bike lanes (curbside) to Lafayette near Saltonstall

School, similar to North Street. Currently in very early stages, SWAG will continue to support/promote as details develop. Will also be participating in Saltonstall Pride crosswalk painting 5/30 - no more volunteers needed at this time per JC (need 8-10 people per crosswalk and +/- police depending on location). Rec write letters to editor to encourage community support.

- 6.) No Turn On Red proposal/request for information - proposed by PM at 4/13 city council meeting, currently in research stages but will probably need support with time. SWAG could consider intersections that would benefit more than others in case targeted approach results (rather than citywide). ET suggested focusing on intersections that allow all-way pedestrian "WALK" signals (Washington/Derby, Congress/Hawthorne/Derby, Essex/Hawthorne, Washington/Bridge, etc.).
- 7.) Upcoming city council elections - MS said that there will be open spots and general SWAG members may be interested in running. MS happy to provide info to individuals. Generally:
  - a.) papers available in early June, interested candidates pull papers and spend June/July collecting signatures
  - b.) minimum 25 signatures per ward, 100 signatures from general public - aim higher - need to be verified, some may not count toward total
  - c.) preliminary election (if needed) in September, then general election in November
  - d.) Kyle Davis (COL prospect), Felipe Zambolini (COL prospect), may be some other open seats
- 8.) Open discussion time
  - a.) DP - SWAG members should track Section 7 of city budget (capital plan) to stay informed of relevant infrastructure projects in the works
  - b.) MS - rec SWAG send delegates to Traffic and Parking meetings - can provide public comment, no prior sign-up required - second Weds of each month
  - c.) Broad Street Corridor Project - traffic calming/pedestrian safety project - Ward 3 (PM) - more info at <http://publicinput.com/H0837> - SWAG members encouraged to promote/support, can also write letters to editor of Salem News - experiencing some pushback
  - d.) Peabody rail trail connector (alongside Harmony Grove Cemetery) - public meetings June 5th and 6th, consider attending/input
  - e.) Looking into improving SWAG web presence - website, Google Calendar

Next event: Crosswalk-Accenting Demonstration - Saturday 6/3, 12:00 pm, Roger Conant Statue (need volunteers - please email [eturowski@gmail.com](mailto:eturowski@gmail.com) to participate)

Proposed next general meeting: Saturday 7/8/2023, 10:00 am, Salem Common Gazebo

Proposed next event: large-scale Pedestrian Safety Day - August? (date TBD)