

SWAG General Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 16, 2023 - 10:00 am
Salem MBTA Garage

- 1.) Community leaders in attendance today - we thank you for your support!
 - a.) Jeff Cohen - Ward 5 city councillor, city council liaison to Commission on Disabilities
 - b.) Debra Lobsitz - chairperson, Commission on Disabilities
 - c.) David Moisan - historian, Commission on Disabilities
 - d.) Josh Nagle - member, Bicycling and Shared Path Advisory Committee
 - e.) Catherine Seiferth - member, Bicycling and Shared Path Advisory Committee
 - f.) Kylie Sullivan - executive director, Salem Main Streets
 - g.) Filipe Zamborlini - candidate, Salem city councillor at large
- 2.) Indoor space for future meetings - Wendy and Cat of Habanero Bikes (264 Washington Street) have graciously offered us use of their shop for future general meetings, effective 11/4/2023. Thank you!
- 3.) Partnership with Salem Commission on Disabilities
 - a.) Debra Lobsitz gave an introduction and explained shared goals of our groups
 - i.) CoD is an advisory (not regulatory) group, has budgeted funding available
 - ii.) Supported by statewide Massachusetts Office on Disability
 - b.) Upcoming CoD event - Beep Baseball - Sunday, 9/17/2023, 12:00 pm, Salem Common
 - c.) Erin Turowski will be introducing SWAG at CoD meeting 9/19/2023 (Zoom, 4:30 pm)
 - d.) New CoD program this year with Destination Salem - wheelchairs available for daytime lease
- 4.) Update on Saltonstall/Lafayette infrastructure
 - a.) New signal installed near Saltonstall School - better lighting, more visible
 - b.) Saltonstall School students continue to support project for protected bike lanes on Lafayette
- 5.) City Council discussions this week - right turns on red, automated enforcement cameras
 - a.) Patty Morsillo asked Traffic and Parking to provide information on which intersections allow/prohibit right turns on red, was given extensive list with pedestrian/bike collision info
 - b.) Salem is currently asking the state for a home rule petition to allow city use of automated traffic enforcement cameras, currently illegal at the state level but supported by local police
 - c.) Will likely be opportunities for SWAG members to speak in support of these issues
 - d.) Encouraged members to watch City Council meetings on SATV to stay informed of issues
- 6.) Overview of participation opportunities with City Council (Jeff Cohen)
 - a.) Public comment period is available for first 15 minutes of every City Council meeting
 - b.) Speakers must sign up (online or in City Clerk's office) before 6:30 pm on day of meeting
 - c.) Public comment rules were recently changed to allow discussion of any topic (not just those on meeting agenda) and remove the requirement to provide home address to comment
- 7.) Upcoming Ward 1 city council preliminary election - Tuesday, 9/19/2023 - encourage all Ward 1 residents to vote, Chris Malstrom has been supportive of our group
- 8.) Election season for city council general election, Tuesday, 11/7/2023 - two candidates in attendance, Jeff Cohen and Filipe Zamborlini - we encourage all residents to research and participate (vote!)
- 9.) Next SWAG event - Haunted Happenings Crosswalk-Accenting Demonstration, 10/15/2023
 - a.) Similar idea to June's event, but bigger (more tourists) and with costumes
 - b.) All members invited to attend, will have small planning meeting in next 2-3 weeks
 - c.) Wear costumes, SWAG will also have high-viz gear available if desired
 - d.) Volunteers should plan to meet at 11:30 am to organize/huddle, event runs 12:00-1:30 pm
 - e.) Will be assisting at intersection near Roger Conant statue/Salem Witch Museum/Common
 - f.) Kylie/Salem Main Streets has offered use of their table near Hawthorne Hotel for gear stowing
- 10.) Next SWAG general meeting - Saturday, November 4, 2023 - 10:00 am - Habanero Bikes