**Description of the Working Groups of Watertown Citizens – September 2022**

**Watertown Faces Climate Change**

We are a "Watertown node" of 350 MASS. We advocate for and support Watertown’s efforts to combat and mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. With our efforts, Watertown now has two new net zero energy elementary schools, the state’s first Solar Ordinance, and a Community Choice Aggregation plan for purchasing renewable green electricity at affordable prices.  Our advocacy and participation in in a Watertown Climate Action Plan has resulted in ambitious goals and actions that we will continue to monitor and advocate for rapid implementation and incorporation in new developments.  Besides local projects, we collaborate with other groups, such as MOF, MAPC and WE3C on various issues, including methane leaks.  We currently meet on every other Sunday at 4:15 PM. Contact: WatertownFacesClimateChange@watertowncitizens.org

**Watertown Community for Black Lives**

We campaign against violence and systemic racism primarily affecting people of color in our local community. We operate under the leadership of people of color. Together with other progressive groups in town, we hold monthly vigils to remember the Black lives and others that have been ended through encounters with police and racist violence across the country. Our current interest groups focus on action within Watertown, including Police Policy Reform; Supporting Racial Equity in the Public Schools; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in local government: Race Reels film series; and planning for Juneteenth and other celebrations of Black history and culture. We generally meet on the first Monday of every month. Visit us at [wcbl.org](https://wcbl.org/), and send questions to ot@wcbl.org.

**Watertown Citizens Friends of Bees**

We advocate for and educate about native bees and other pollinators. We partner with Watertown Community Gardens, Mystic-Charles Pollinator Pathways, and the Massachusetts Pollinator Network. With WCG we are maintaining public pollinator gardens in Watertown and planting more. We help people thank bees for the
role they play in the food system by growing native plants and not using pesticides. We present educational events such as Pollinator Walks. We organize self-guided Garden Tours, which showcase the health of gardens in Watertown where no chemical pesticides or fertilizers are used. Contact us at FriendsofBees@watertowncitizens.org  or visit us at [www.facebook.com/groups/WatertownCitizensBees](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WatertownCitizensBees/)

**Watertown Pigsgusset Initiative**

Members of the Pigsgusset Initiative stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples andare dedicated to healing and justice through the un-erasure of Indigenous peoples from the place now called Watertown. Pigsgusset is the name for Watertown used by its original inhabitants from the Pequossette band of the Massachusetts tribe.We work to educate ourselves and our neighbors about the original peoples of this land including settler colonialism and its relationship to genocide. We seek to challenge and change false narratives that fill our public spaces by transforming local government imagery such as the town seal, public markers, monuments, place names, and public holidays. One of our longer term goals is to introduce more content about Indigenous peoples, both historically and present day, into local school curricula.

**Watertown Refugee Support Group**

Our group formed in 2015 in response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis. Since then we have worked to help and support refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants from all over the world. Our activities include vigils, cultural celebrations, clothing drives, legislative efforts, film festivals, and direct support of Massachusetts immigrant families in need. Some examples of our past public programs: an event called “Watertown Celebrates Iftar,” in which over 200 Muslims and non-Muslims share Ramadan fast-breaking and engage in interfaith dialogue; a program entitled “US Immigration Challenge: How To Create Meaningful Dialogue in Our Community.”   Look for postings of our monthly meetings on the WCPJE website, or contact Sue-Ellen Hershman-Tcherepnin at seht128@gmail.com    Visit us at [www.facebook.com/groups/WatertownCitizensRefugeeSupport/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WatertownCitizensRefugeeSupport/)

**Peace and Common Security**

This is a new Working Group initiated last month. Its mission is to educate and engage Watertown residents in promoting U.S. military and foreign policy that seeks global justice and cooperation, the peaceful resolution of conflict, and human rights. We call for federal budgets that place a priority on meeting human and environmental needs over military spending. We seek an end to war, the elimination of nuclear weapons, and oppose militarism both abroad and at home. We value community organizing, legislative advocacy, nonviolent protest and working in coalitions as means to achieving this mission. We sponsored a program on the dangers and consequences of nuclear weapons at the July Monthly Meeting. We meet monthly on the second Sunday of the month at 7:00 PM. Contact us at peaceandsecurity@watertowncitizens.org