

Bicycle Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for August 4, 2008
Submitted by John Dempsey
Approved September 8, 2008

The meeting took place in the Health Department Conference Room at 7 P.M.
Present: Harry Margolis, Tommy Vitolo, John Dempsey
Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Andrew Fischer, Josh Safer

Handouts: Agenda, Bike Rack article in Brookline TAB

Announcements:

- Rebecca Albrecht announced “Courtesy Mass,” an alternative to Critical Mass, that will start at Copley Square on Friday, August 8, 2008, at 5:30 P.M. Courtesy Mass will follow the laws governing bicycles and motor vehicles using public streets (e.g stopping for stoplights and pedestrians in crosswalks, riding single file in congested areas, etc.). Organized by Brendan Larabee of Brookline.

Bike Racks – Harry Margolis and Tommy Vitolo

- Last year we were able to install bike racks in public areas – schools, parks, commercial areas.
- Harry submitted and the TAB published an article and a picture about the bike rack program.
- Brookline was funded again for this year.
- Tommy will contact Todd Kirrane about our questions. How much money do we have? What is the time line?
- Guidelines: Racks must be on public land, two points of contact, permanent
- Where should they be placed?
- Tommy has the map showing suggested placements.
- Should we concentrate on non-commercial areas?
- Suggestions: Putterham Library, religious buildings, multi-unit apartment buildings, MBTA stations, post offices, Public Health building, hotels, Town Hall
- Harry and Tommy will organize the effort.

Brookline TAB Weekly Bicycling Column – Andy Fischer

- Would be similar to SWAC’s Recycling Corner in the TAB.
- One person would be the coordinator/editor with four writers rotating.
- Andy is willing to be a writer.
- John will contact Erin CLossey at the TAB.
- Articles would be proactive, positive, informational, good public relations, and would encourage more people to cycle.
- Articles would promote BAC initiatives (e.g bike racks, safe routes, bike parade).
- Heading would be “Brookline Bikes.”

Contraflow Lanes on Netherlands Road/Parkway Road – Tommy Vitolo

- Tommy explained the concept of contraflow lanes and the plans.
- Construction will not start before Spring 2009.
- There will be a “STOP” sign at the intersection of Netherlands and Parkway.
- There will be a “YIELD TO BICYCLES” sign for the crossover to and from the Muddy River Path.
- Discussion of how to rebut negative comments about contraflow lanes for bicycles (“The bicyclists do it anyway, so they might as well make it legal’ is the stupidest reason I’ve heard for contraflow lanes.” and “Why should the Town enable the bicyclists to flout the laws?”)
- Contraflow lanes facilitate bicycling, exist only where there is enough room for bikes and cars, define the areas for cars and bikes, create safer conditions, make optimum use of streets that are too narrow for two-way motor vehicle traffic.

New Member Candidates – Harry and Tommy

- Tommy will get the list from Abby Swaine
- Tommy will get direction from the Transportation Board.

Web Site Maintenance – Tommy

- John and Harry will look at Cambridge’s, Arlington’s, Newton’s, and others and make suggestions.
- We should check with the Transportation Board for guidelines.
- John will email Brookline IT (Ben Vivante) for general guidelines (e.g. Should we include links to other sites such MassBike, Livable Streets, Green Streets, etc.?).

Discussion Initiated by Town Meeting Josh Safer

- Josh Safer, a Town Meeting Member. suggested that this is the time for TM action because bicycling is a “hot topic.”
- He thought that small amounts of money (\$10-50,000) could be allocated for bicycle related projects through the Town Meeting.
- We explained that the Bicycle Advisory Committee is an adjunct of the Transportation Board. We advise the Board on bicycle-related matters. The Transportation Board was given responsibility for transportation decisions by Town Meeting.

Assignments:

- Tommy will contact Todd Kirrane about our bike rack grant questions: How much money do we have? What is the time line?
- Harry and Tommy will organize the effort to decide where to place the racks.
- John will contact Erin Clossey about Brookline Bikes TAB article.
- Tommy will contact Abby Swaine about her original list of BAC candidates and for her and Transportation Board advice about Andi Genser’s replacement.
- John and Harry will meet to discuss the improvements to the web site.
- John will contact Ben Vivante about web site questions.
- John will contact Todd Kirrane about web site questions (i.e. Transportation Board)

Adjournment:

We adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2008, at 7 P.M.

Location: Devotion School

Possible agenda items:

- Bike rack update/locations
- Warrant article discussion (post-deadline)
- Web site update
- Fall event
- New member

Open Meeting Rules

- A meeting must be posted to the Town Calendar at least one week before the meeting is to take place.
- Must include time, location, agenda in pdf format, contact person, and contact e-mail address
- Within two subsequent meetings we must post to the website a copy of the minutes in pdf format.
- An email will be sent to all TMM and other officials about the meeting.
- Therefore, Todd needs information from BAC 1 ½ weeks before the meeting.