

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

The meeting took place in the Devotion School Library at 7 P.M.  
Present: Mitch Heineman, Harry Margolis, Tommy Vitolo, John Dempsey, Peter Furth  
(Transportation Board)  
Public: Eileen Goldfless, Don McNamara

Handouts: Agenda

Announcements:

- Mitch is resigning as the chairman. Thank you to Mitch for being the chair for these many years!

Election of chairman

- Harry Margolis is the new chairman
- Responsibilities: 1) create the agenda – with the help of membership – and e-mail a pdf copy with notification of meeting to Todd Kirrane 1.5 weeks before the meeting so it can be posted. 2) Keep the meeting focused on the agenda.
- Mitch reminded us that at times he invited “guest speakers.”
- John will set up the calendar and procure the room.

#### **Use of the Brookline Bikes e-mail list – Tommy Vitolo**

- We should use the list just to make announcements of bike events in Brookline – such as the recent 10 Hills of Brookline/Greenspace Alliance ride.
- List should not be used for advocacy or issues.

#### **Request by Livable Streets to send information to BAC members – John Dempsey**

- Yes. John will talk to Dorothy Fennell. They are not requesting that we send announcements to any broader list of people.
- We will put a link on our website to LSA.

#### **Discussion of plan for funding for bicycle infrastructure improvements – Tommy Vitolo**

- There is interest among town meeting members in bicycle issues
- Bike infrastructure improvements should be in the Capital Improvement Plan
- We should advocate for \$25,000-\$50,000 per year.
- We will recommend to the Transportation Board that they work with the CIP subcommittee of the Advisory Committee to get some bicycle projects on the CIP list..
- We need Engineering’s help to design and cost out certain projects. If need be, we can rely on rough estimates Peter can provide.
- Our network plan includes a project list with more than 30 projects. We have already submitted to the Board (November 2007) a list of 5 improvements that could be done immediately. One of them (Netherlands Road contraflow) is approved for implementation in 2009. The pace of implementation needs to be increased.

- Peter and Tommy will work on plan revisions, including providing recommendations for five years of projects.
- There will also be “mega” projects that need State funding e.g. rebuilding Hammond Street.
- BAC will request to get on the Transportation Board agenda in October to discuss funding and inclusion of projects in the CIP.
- Board meets on the third Thursday of the month.
- Next meetings are September 18, October 16, 2008, November 20.
- First projects should be Carlton St. and Cypress Street.

### **Discussion of “riding on sidewalks” issue**

- Eileen Goldfless was concerned that all sidewalk riding would be banned.
- She is a bicyclist but wary of certain streets.
- Wants option to be on the sidewalk when she feels street is unsafe.
- Example of Commonwealth Avenue w/ wide sidewalk.
- Tommy voiced opinion that a ban on sidewalk riding wouldn’t stop the scofflaws who frighten pedestrians but would drive away people who ride cautiously/slowly for their safety. Those people wouldn’t be “driven away” into the streets. They would stop bicycling.
- We informed her that the warrant article from a TMM was withdrawn.
- We informed her that TM created the Transportation Board and gave it power over issues such as the riding on sidewalks
- State law already exists that requires bicyclists to yield to pedestrians on sidewalks: “bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks outside business districts when necessary in the interest of safety, unless otherwise directed by local ordinance. A person operating a bicycle on a sidewalk shall yield the right of way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any pedestrian.” no bikes on sidewalks in commercial areas.
- The State leaves other rules up to the municipalities.

### **Discussion about new members to fill vacancy**

- John will contact names on the list to see if they are still interested.
- John will ask Abby about her perspective about the gender issue.
- We will continue to recruit active friends
- The Committee should generally represent a wide range of views.
- We need workers to do projects

### **Bike Racks – Tommy Vitolo**

- Tommy talked about hoop racks that can be attached to existing parking meters.
- Tommy questioned if they could be attached to two-headed meters.
- Question about whether the meters will soon be replaced by “mega” meters.
- Don referred to Cambridge document about bike racks. Tommy was aware of it.
- Siting discussion: Tommy suggested outside the bigger apartment buildings for “guest” parking. Libraries? Religious buildings? Hotels? Town Hall? MBTA stations?
- Guidelines: Racks must be on public land, two points of contact, permanent

- Tommy has the map showing suggested placements.
- Mitch said \$800,000 was available state-wide to be distributed proportionally by formula.

### **Bike Traffic Counts – Peter Furth**

- Typically done in September
- Good way to track progress
- Possible sites: Beacon/Carlton (Tommy), Harvard/Longwood (Peter), BHS (John) Rt. 9/Pond (Don), Coolidge Corner (Harry)

### **Assignments:**

- Peter and Tommy will update the network plan and expand the list of recommended near-term projects with cost estimates.
  - Peter will get the BAC on the Transportation Board agenda for October 16.
  - Peter will send guidelines for bike counts and pick the week for the counts.
  - John will talk to Dorothy Fennell of Livable Streets about getting information to Bicycle Advisory Board
  - John will contact people to see if they are still interested in being on the BAC.
  - John will call Abby to discuss the gender issue.
  - John will make the schedule of meetings and reserve the room.
  - John will contact Ben Vivante about web site questions.
  - John will contact Todd Kirrane about web site questions (i.e. Transportation Board)
  - Tommy will investigate the CIP process more closely.
  - Tommy will contact Todd Kirrane about our bike rack grant questions: How much money do we have? What is the time line?
  - Harry will contact Todd and the TAB about having residents weigh in on bike rack locations.
- Tommy will make a Google map for people to locate possible sites for bike racks.
- Harry and Tommy will organize the effort to decide where to place the racks.

### **Adjournment:**

We adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2008, at 7 P.M.  
Location: Devotion School

### **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.