

Bicycle Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2008
Submitted by John Dempsey

The meeting took place in the Devotion School Library at 7:10 P.M.
Present: Mitch Heineman, Harry Margolis, Tommy Vitolo, John Dempsey, Peter Furth
(Transportation Board)
Public: Don McNamara, Taylor Adams, Kate Braner, Marissa Bodnar, Brian Kane
Press: Neal Simpson

Handouts: Agenda, Bike Count Data Sheet, CIP List

Announcements:

- Beth Erlichman is resigning. Thank you to Beth for taking the minutes for many months, adding to the discussions and good humor, and co-chairing the Bike Parade!

The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Bike Column in Brookline TAB – John Dempsey

- Brookline TAB Editor Erin Clossey said she would welcome a bicycle column and would try to make room for it in the paper every other week or every month. No guarantees. The column would be similar in style to the Recycling Corner.
- Mitch Heineman will coordinate the effort.
- John will e-mail Erin to tell her Mitch will be the contact.
- The deadline is Friday morning the week before the paper comes out.

Report on Bike Count – Peter Furth

- First annual bike count.
- Conducted during peak morning commuting hour during mid-week in mid-September on a fair day.
- Sites: Beacon/Carlton, Cypress/Walnut, Netherlands/Parkway, Longwood/Chapel, Essex/Dummer, Rt. 9 Crossing, Park/Washington, Coolidge Corner commercial district, Brookline High School
- Peter distributed a data sheet showing the counts and his interpretation of them.
- Longwood Avenue had the largest count – 203
- Tommy reported that bike parking at BHS was brought up as an issue at the CCAB Climate Change Café on 10/4/08.
- Point made that it was difficult to get car/bike percentages.
- Mitch will make a map showing count statistics.
- Mitch will work with Neal Simpson on a TAB story.
- Tommy will put the information on the web site.

New Membership – John Dempsey

- John contacted most of the people on the original list of interested citizens to see if they still lived in Brookline and to see if they were still interested in being on the committee.

- All reported positively.
- Committee endorsed Cynthia Snow for one position and Don McNamara for another position.
- Harry will advance those names to Todd Kirrane and contact Cynthia Snow.
- Harry will contact Gregg Shapiro, Sam Comerchero, Margaret Livingstone, Christopher Hug (Hoog), Ken Lane, and Bob Rasmussen to invite them to meetings.

Mandatory Bike Registration Warrant Article – Tommy Vitolo

- A voluntary bike registration article failed 91-91 in the Spring Town Meeting.
- But the police initiated a voluntary registration program anyways..
- Some insurance companies require registration for expensive bikes.
- Peter will explain to the Transportation Board that BAC does not endorse mandatory registration.

Report on Capital Improvement Program Recommendations – Peter Furth/Tommy Vitolo

- List of 37 projects, estimated costs, target years.
- Figured about \$110,000/year (approximately \$2/year/resident).
- Combination of small, medium, and large projects.
- The BAC should meet with the Transportation Board and recommend they request \$110,000/year in the CIP for the next 8 years.
- Plan for \$5000/year inflation increases during those 8 years.
- Remind people that the Greenway Plan benefits everybody going everywhere.
- Mitch will work with Peter to meld the original document with the more recent draft.

Bike Racks - Tommy Vitolo

- Tommy has been in touch with Todd Kirrane.
- Process is going slowly – two-year cycle, cautious about money.
- Transportation and Engineering staff are interested in “hoop and post” units (with good design) on parking meters.

Website Update – Tommy Vitolo

- We need to advertise the bike rack website.
- It is still on TommyVitolo.com website.
- Tommy will go live on the Brookline Bike website when the bike column announces it.

Bike Parade – John Dempsey

- We will run it on Sunday, May 17, 2009.
- 12:30 P.M. start.
- John will contact the police.
- We will work with police to design an event for younger riders.
- John will check availability of Amory Playground.
- Point was made that we should have a more festive event at the end (e.g. music and food).

Carlton Street Redesign

- Issue has come up in petitions from residents of Cottage Farm who are exasperated with traffic in the neighborhood and their safety when crossing Carlton Street.
- Counts and speed studies are being done.
- Now seems to be a good time to make recommendations.
- Brian Kane suggested getting in touch with MASCO. They have interest and might have money.
- Tommy and Peter will meet to discuss possible improvements.

Assignments:

- Mitch Heineman will coordinate the TAB column effort.
- John will e-mail Erin Clossey to tell her Mitch will be the contact.
- Mitch will make a map showing Bike Count statistics.
- Mitch will work with Neal Simpson on a TAB story.
- Tommy will put the Bike Count information on the web site.
- Harry will contact Cynthia Snow to join the BAC.
- Harry will advance the names of Cynthia Snow and Don McNamara to Todd Kirrane.
- Harry will contact Gregg Shapiro, Sam Comerchero, Virginia Livingstone, and Bob Rasmussen to invite them to meetings.
- Peter will explain to the Transportation Board that BAC does not endorse mandatory bicycle registration.
- Mitch will work with Peter to meld the original Safe Routes document with the more recent draft that is now named Green Routes.
- Tommy's interactive bike rack site will go live on the Brookline Bike website when the bike column announces it.
- John will contact the police about the date and time of the Bike Parade.
- We will work with police to design an event for younger riders.
- John will check availability of Amory Playground for Bike Parade start and finish.
- Tommy and Peter will meet to discuss possible improvements to the Carlton Street route.

Adjournment:

We adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, 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.