

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2009

Submitted by John Dempsey

The meeting took place in the Devotion School Library at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Mitch Heineman, Harry Margolis, Tommy Vitolo, John Dempsey, Don McNamara, Cynthia Snow, Peter Furth (Transportation Board)

Public: Seymour Ziskend, Sam Comerchero, Rebecca Albrecht, Eli Schiff, Neal Simpson

Handouts: Agenda

The minutes from the December 2008 meeting were accepted.

Welcome New Participants

- Seymour Ziskend was welcomed.

Discussion of Bicycle Licensing Warrant Article - Ziskend

- The Bicycle Advisory Committee was asked to advise the Transportation Board about the Warrant Article #11 recommending mandatory registration of bicycles in Brookline.
- Timeline and protocol: Bicycle Committee will write an opinion/report and discuss it at the February BAC meeting. The BAC will submit the opinion/report to the Transportation Board and the DPW. The Transportation Board will put it on their agenda for a discussion. The Transportation Board will report to the May Town Meeting.
- Mr. Ziskend, the author of the article, spoke about how he came to write it. After observing behaviors of some bicyclists he was worried about the safety of bicyclists and those near and around bicyclists. He thought mandatory registration would help the police identify unsafe bicyclists. Mandatory registration would also help to identify recovered bicycles that were stolen.
- Mr. Vitolo summarized the goal of the article as one of “safety for all: pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicle operators, children, adults, etc.”
- Mr. Ziskend agreed that safety was his primary concern.
- Mr. Vitolo suggested that infrastructure improvements, education, and enforcement would be more effective strategies for safety. For example: infrastructure improvements - which involved all parties - would make it clear to all how to behave.
- Mr. Furth emphasized that enforcing “lights at night” should be the highest priority.
- There was consensus that even though the aim of the article - to make conditions safe for all - was a good one, mandatory bicycle registration was not the best way to achieve it.
- Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Margolis will write a draft of a report.

Capital Improvement Project Recommendations – Vitolo

- Mr. Vitolo spoke to the Board of Selectmen at a public meeting in December 2009.
- Mr. Vitolo forwarded the Green Streets plan to the CIP Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee.
- The CIP Subcommittee will make a recommendation.

- Mr. Vitolo will get an idea of their timeline.

Bike Racks - Margolis

- No change from the last several months on any forthcoming funds from the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission.
- Transportation Board will entertain a proposal for donations of bicycle racks from private entities.
- Parks department is working on drafting such a proposal for park benches.
- Ms. Snow will contact Erin Gallentine and offer to help draft a policy.

Website and Friends of Bicycle Advisory Committee e-mail list – McNamara

- Ms. Snow entered 184 e-mail addresses of those who registered on paper at the bicycle parade.
- Mr. Vitolo has the e-mail addresses of those who registered online.
- Mr. McNamara and Mr. Vitolo have started the process.
- Mr. Dempsey will compose an e-mail message announcing the 2009 parade and calling for volunteers.

May Bike Parade – Dempsey

- We will run it on Sunday, May 31, 2009, at 12:30 P.M.
- Mr. Dempsey will meet with the New England Institute of Art on January 12 for help with graphics.
- Discussion about options for youngest children.
- Discussion about allowing vendors to sell safety equipment at the bike parade.
- Ms. Albrecht volunteered to arrange for food and food vendors at the end of the parade.
- Mr. Dempsey will compose an e-mail message seeking volunteers.

Column in Brookline TAB – Heineman

- Muddy Rider #2 was online on January 3, 2009. (Also in the 1/8/09 edition of the paper)
- Discussion of ideas for the column included the following: Boston bicycle improvements meeting sponsored by Livable Streets Alliance on January 29 at the Boston Public Library.
- Mr. Heineman is seeking ideas and copy.

Lee/Clyde NU Engineering students study – Furth

- Mr. Furth has 15 students working on 5 projects.
- The intersection of Lee and Clyde Streets is one.
- This will be a hypothetical study that includes engineering analysis, green street technology and practices, aesthetic refinements, improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists, etc.
- Presentations will be in March and at the end of April.

Organizing a Brookline chapter of Livable Streets Alliance

- Tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 19, 2009.
- Tommy will contact some likely participants.
- Ms. Snow will arrange for use of the Community Room in the Public Safety Building

February Meeting Date

- We will meet on Monday, February 2, 2009, at 7 P.M. at Devotion school.

New business

There was no new business.

Assignments:

- Mr. Dempsey will write a draft of a report about Article 11: mandatory bicycle registration.
- Mr. Vitolo will get an idea of the timeline for the CIP Subcommittee of the Advisory Board.
- Mr. Vitolo will send Ms. Snow information about bicycle racks.
- Ms. Snow will contact Erin Gallentine and offer to help her draft a policy to accept donations of benches and bike racks from private entities.
- Mr. Vitolo and Mr. McNamara will continue to work on the website.
- Mr. Dempsey will compose an e-mail message announcing the 2009 parade and calling for volunteers.
- Everyone will submit ideas and copy for the Muddy Rider column to Mitch.
- Mr. Vitolo will contact some likely participants in an effort to start a chapter of Livable Streets Alliance in Brookline.
- Ms. Snow will arrange for use of the Community Room in the Public Safety Building for such a meeting on January 19, 2009. (Ms. Kathy Flanagan – Chief's secretary)

Adjournment:

We adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

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, and 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 Kirrane needs information from BAC 1 ½ weeks before the meeting.