

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2009

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

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

Public: Sam Comerchero, Rebecca Albrecht, Dan Delaskey (NU), James Turnbull (NU), Filipe Vieira (NU), Justin Cohen (NU)

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 3/2/09

The minutes from the March 2, 2009, meeting were approved.

Welcome new participants

- We welcomed the Northeastern University team members who are studying bicycling improvements for Lee Street/Clyde Street.

NU Student Lee/Clyde Project - Furth

- Northeastern University senior engineering students presented drawings, explanations, and arguments for bicycling improvements to Lee Street and Clyde Street.
- They explained that they looked at three options: bike lanes on either side of the roads, a bike path down the middle of the roads, and a service road along the even-numbered side of the roads.
- They decided on a service road solution and presented those drawings.
- Bicycle Advisory Committee members asked questions for clarification and made suggestions.
- The students will make a final presentation at Northeastern in late April.

Carlton Street - Furth

- The Transportation Board made two suggestions: 1) seek an alternative route to connect the Muddy River Path and the Charles River Path and 2) talk to the Cottage Farm neighbors.
- Mr. Vitolo suggested that our target group is not only families and young adults but also “reluctant commuters” and “reluctant errand-runners.”
- One suggestion was a route northbound from the Muddy River Path to Chapel Street to Longwood Avenue to a right on Kent Street and straight on Powell Street to Freeman Street, to Amory Street, to Worthington Street, to Essex Street.
- That Kent/Powell route between the Muddy River and the Charles River is about ¼ mile longer and hillier than the Carlton Street route.
- There was general agreement that the Carlton Street route is the best.
- Mr. Furth will write a report outlining the Committee's concerns about the Kent Street alternative.

Transportation Board Meetings - Furth

- The bicycle registration proposal will be discussed at the April 16 meeting
- Ms. Snow will represent the Bicycle Advisory Committee

May Bike Parade – Dempsey

- Sunday, May 31, 2009, at 12:30 P.M.
- Start and finish will be at Amory Playground.
- Mr. Dempsey showed the posters (300) and the postcards.

- Mr. Dempsey outlined a proposal for a co-parade option for youngest children through the Cottage Farm neighborhood.
- Mr. Dempsey will get approval for the release form from Town Counsel.
- Everyone will solicit more parade volunteers.
- Mr. Heineman will solicit volunteers from his company.
- Mr. Dempsey will coordinate with the Parks Division for supplying ice cream sandwiches and popsicles and water for 1000 people.
- Mr. Dempsey will coordinate with the Parks Division for hiring a band to entertain at the end of the Bike Parade and the celebration of the reopening of Amory Playground.

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

- Mr. McNamara will try to get the website operational before the Bike Parade.

Bicycle-related Accidents

- Bicycle Advisory Committee asked to be notified about any bicycle-related accidents.
- Suggestion was made that we get the accident data dumped and we search that data for bicycle-related accidents.
- Mr. Furth will talk to Captain Gropman to see if we can get the data about bike accidents – as infrequent as they may be.

Report on CIP recommendations - Vitolo

- Mr. Furth met with Mr. Kirrane to go over the CIP.
- Nothing will happen until the department heads meet in three months.

Bike Racks – Snow

- Ms. Snow reported that Todd Kirrane approved the policy statement about purchasing by private entities of bike racks for public spaces.

Climate Change Action Brookline – Furth

- Climate Change Action Brookline (CCAB) points out that transportation adds to climate change.
- CCAB is incorporating transportation into a Community Block Grant (\$600,000) for energy conservation.

May Meeting Date

- We will meet on Monday, May 4, 2009, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

New business

- Ms Albrecht spoke about Bike Benefits.org. For a nominal fee bicyclists get discounts at participating local businesses.

Adjournment:

We adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Assignments:

- Mr. Furth will write a report outlining the Committee's concerns about the Kent Street alternative.
- Ms. Snow will represent the Bicycle Advisory Committee at the Transportation Board meeting on April 16, 2009.
- Mr. Dempsey will get approval for the Bike Parade registration/release form from Town Counsel.

- Everyone will solicit more parade volunteers.
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- Mr. Furth will talk to Captain Gropman to see if we can get the data about bike accidents – as infrequent as they may be.

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.