

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for May 4, 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: Rebecca Albrecht, Sybil Centers

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 4/6/09, Bicycle Benefits Promotion/Explanation

The minutes from the April 6, 2009, meeting were approved.

Welcome new participants

- Sybil Centers attends meetings occasionally. Rebecca Albrecht regularly attends.

May Bike Parade – Dempsey

- Sunday, May 31, 2009, at 12:30 P.M.
- Start and finish will be at Amory Playground.
- Mr. Dempsey distributed posters and postcards to members for posting.
- Mr. Dempsey is soliciting volunteer parade marshals from Cottage Farm neighborhood.
- Mr. Furth said that his wife Beth will be a parade marshal.
- Everyone will solicit more parade volunteers.
- Mr. Heineman will solicit parade marshals from his company.
- The police department Community Emergency Response Team is very interested in supplying volunteers.
- We have contracted to have 1000 ice cream sandwiches after the Parade.
- We have contracted to have the band BeatlesTracks play at the celebration.
- We have contracted to have three porta-potties on site.
- REI will have a tent.
- Brookline Bank expects to distribute blue balloons after the parade.
- Mr. Dempsey met with DPW, Police, and Parks about plans for routes, street closings, and barricades.
- Chobee Hoy will include the parade in her May 28 ad in the Brookline TAB.
- We will meet at Mr. Margolis's house on Tuesday evening, May 26 at 7 P.M. 144 Clark Road.
- Mr. Vitolo and Mr. McNamara will have the website working by Friday, May 8.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact photographers.

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

- Mr. McNamara has completed the content and sent it for review to Mr. Kirrane.
- Mr. Vitolo is working on functionality issues.
- Once the web site is working, Mr. Vitolo and Mr. McNamara will send out another message about the Bike Parade to the list on Friday, May 8.

Discount program for bicyclers – Albrecht

- Ms. Albrecht explained the Bicycle Benefits program and handed out a promotional sheet.
- Bicyclists join for \$5. Stores offer discounts to members. Go to bicyclebenefits.org.
- Ms. Albrecht will contact Ian Klepetar who runs the program in this area.
- Some Brookline businesses already offer the program (e.g. Economy Hardware)

Carlton Street Update – Furth and Vitolo

- Mr. Kirrane is doing traffic counts on Carlton Street.
- The issue will probably be on the late-May 2009 Transportation Board agenda.

Transportation Board Meetings - Furth

- The bicycle registration proposal will be discussed at the May 7 meeting.
- The Bike Parade plans will be discussed at the May 7 meeting.
- Mr. Dempsey will attend the May 7 meeting.

State Bicycle Grants

- Discussion about an article in the Boston Globe about unspent federal money allocated to the Commonwealth for bike-related projects.
- Mr. Vitolo invited Mr. Kirrane to the May 4 BAC meeting.
- Mr. Margolis will contact Mr. Kirrane about access to the funds, restrictions, protocols, and applicability to Brookline.

Column in the TAB - Heineman

- Mr. Heineman submitted a Muddy Rider but the TAB did not post it or print it.
- Mr. Heineman will submit another column about the Bike Parade for publication on May 14, 21, and/or 28.
- Mr. Dempsey submitted items about the Bike Parade in “Coming Up” and “Volunteer Opportunities.”

Report on CIP recommendations - Vitolo

- Nothing will happen until the department heads meet in July.
- Though there is no official mandate to include BAC in the initial discussions about CIP for FY 11, the Committee felt that it was important to be included from the very beginning.

Bike Racks – Snow and Vitolo

- Mr. Vitolo reported that a large tree fell on and destroyed the ribbon bike rack at Hall’s Pond.
- The BAC recommended that Mr. Kirrane use the bike rack grant money to replace that rack.

Climate Change Action Brookline – Furth

- There was no discussion or action about this item.

May Meeting Dates

- We will meet on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at 7 P.M. at Mr. Margolis’s at 144 Clark Rd. for parade planning.
- We will meet on Monday, June 1, 2009, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

New business

- Mr. Vitolo spoke about a conversation he had with a woman who was upset that her locked bike on lower Beacon Street was deemed abandoned and removed by the police and DPW prior to the 2009 Marathon.
- Mr. Dempsey will draft a policy about “bicycles deemed to be abandoned.”
- Ms. Albrecht brought up the idea of supporting “Bike to School” programs similar to “Safe Routes to School” or “Walking School Bus.”
- Mr. Dempsey raised liability issue if the BAC ran such programs.
- Suggestion made that the individual PTOs could run such programs.
- Mr. Dempsey reminded everyone about the Open Meeting Law training.

Adjournment:

We adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Assignments:

- Mr. McNamara will post posters in Brookline Village.
- Ms. Albrecht will post posters in Coolidge Corner.
- Ms. Centers will post posters in JFK Crossing and Coolidge Corner.
- Mr. Dempsey will post posters in Town Hall campus.
- Mr. Vitolo will post posters in St. Mary's.
- Ms. Snow will post posters in Washington Square.
- Mr. Dempsey will represent the Bicycle Advisory Committee at the Transportation Board meeting on May 7, 2009, and at the Selectmen on May 12 or 19, 2009.
- Everyone will solicit more parade volunteers.
- Mr. Heineman will solicit volunteers from his company.
- Mr. Heineman will submit another column about the Bike Parade for publication on May 14, 21, and/or 28.
- Mr. Dempsey will recruit photographers.
- Mr. Margolis will host a meeting on May 26, 2009, at 144 Clark Road.
- Mr. Margolis will contact Mr. Kirrane about Federal funds held by the Commonwealth for bike-related projects.
- Mr. McNamara and Mr. Vitolo will get the website operational by Friday, May 8.
- Ms. Albrecht will contact Ian Klepetar who runs the Bicycle Benefits program in this area.
- Mr. Vitolo will contact Mr. Kirrane about a bike rack for Hall's Pond.

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.