

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for June 1, 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, Cynthia Snow, Mitch Heineman, Peter Furth (Transportation Board)

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Joel Volpe, Sarah Volpe, Susan DeLong, Andrew Moulton, Joel Jacobson, Ruth Jacobson, Sam Comerchero

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 5/4/09, Proposal for a Brookline Ciclovía, Draft of Abandoned Bicycles Policy

The minutes from the May 4, 2009, meeting were approved.

Welcome new participants

• Joel and Ruth Jacobson are interested in participating in bicycle events/rides in the Brookline area. Joel and Sarah Volpe, Susan DeLong, and Andrew Moulton live in the Cottage Farm neighborhood and are interested in the workings of the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Bike Parade post mortem – Dempsey

The consensus is the parade worked much better in 2009:

- We had the experience from 2008.
- The police provided two cars at the front: 1 about 100 yards ahead and 1 setting the pace just in front of the riders.
- We had more parade marshals.
- There was no BU graduation or Red Sox game.
- The number of riders was similar to 2008.

There were several suggestions for 2010:

- A little faster speed (About 1 mph +)
- Be sure to block Amory after the parade leaves.
- Have children leave from a separate site (e.g. the private way) or
- If the children leave from Amory, leave more space for them to get up to the front before the start.
- Have more leaders for the children's parade
- Plan to have the children's parade do more circuits if the families want to try it.
- Plan to have the children have an activity before the parade
- There should be an email response when a person completes registration.
- Have more food available (e.g. hot dogs)
- Have the Farmer's Market at Amory for the day
- Have a bigger MassBike presence
- Police bicycle registration opportunity

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

- BAC email will go to Mr. Dempsey.
- Mr. Dempsey will respond or forward them to Mr. Vitolo.

Discount program for bicyclers – Albrecht

- Ms. Albrecht reported that Ian Klepetar of Bicycle Benefits is presently out of the state.

Carlton Street Update – Furth

- Mr. Furth met with Mr. Kirrane, Mr. Fraser, and Mr. Ditto to discuss wording on signs where the right of way is too narrow for a bike lane or for cars and bikes to ride parallel to each other. (e.g. “Shared Road” or “Shared Road – Yield to Bicycles”)
- Design was presented at the Transportation Board.
- Discussion about “crossing the double yellow line.”
- Aesthetic question as to the number of lines painted on the roadway.
- Issue of the 90 degree corner at Carlton and Colchester
- Street markings will be 200’ apart.
- Discussion of “intended use,” “design,” and “actual use”
- Southbound: bicycle priority lane
- Northbound: 10’ - 10’ - 3’ = bicycles get the “leftovers”
- “It is the Town’s policy to promote safety for all users. It is not the Town’s policy to promote bicycling.”
- Should we ask Commissioner DeMaio to come to a meeting?
- Discussion about the psychology of drivers and cyclists on narrow roads

Transportation Board Meetings - Furth

- Mr. Kirrane and Mr. Fraser presented alternatives for Carlton Street northbound parking problem north of Beacon Street: 1) keep the 4 parking spaces, 2) restrict the 4 parking spaces at certain hours, 3) eliminate the 4 parking spaces.
- Mr. Kirrane reported on bicyclist behaviors at that site: 1) bicyclists leave before the green light (Are they disrespecting the law or are they trying to beat the cars because they are nervous about the merge?), 2) 90% cycle into the merge and 10% go up on the sidewalk to avoid the merge.

State Bicycle Grants

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

Column in the TAB - Heineman

- It was noted that the *TAB* has cut down on the number of pages per edition.

Bike Racks – Snow

- The proposal for funding racks by private entities is dormant.
- Ms. Snow will contact Mr. Kirrane.
- Mr. Kirrane placed an order for “sleeves” over parking meters (\$92/unit).
- This will be funded with money left over from the previous year.
- Mr. Margolis will talk to Mr. Kirrane about allocating some of the money for more rack around Brookline High School.

Abandoned Bicycle Policy Draft – Dempsey

- Mr. Dempsey offered a draft of a policy.
- Suggestions were made for revisions.

July Meeting Date

- We will meet on Monday, July 6, 2009, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

New business

Proposal for Brookline Ciclovía – Furth

- Modeled on Bogota, Columbia
- Ciclovía = closing streets to car, truck, and bus traffic
- Proposal to close Beacon Street eastbound for several hours on a Sunday
- Cross streets would remain open
- Discussion of a possible date: August 30, August 23, or September 6
- Discussion of a possible name: Summertime Streets
- Discussion of possible hours

Cities of the Future Conference, Boston, March 2010

- Should we submit an abstract for a presentation?

Add to the agenda

- Overnight parking for bikes
- T stop bike cages

Adjournment:

We adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Assignments:

- Mr. Margolis will contact Mr. Kirrane about Federal funds held by the Commonwealth for bike-related projects.
- Mr. Vitolo will contact Mr. Kirrane about a bike rack for Hall's Pond.
- Ms. Snow will contact Mr. Kirrane about the policy for private funding of bike racks.
- Mr. Margolis will contact Mr. Kirrane about using some of the bike rack money for more racks at Brookline High School.
- Mr. Dempsey will make changes to the draft of an abandoned bike policy.
- Mr. Heineman will keep trying to get Muddy Rider articles in the TAB.
- Mr. Dempsey will meet with Captain O'Leary about the Bike Parade and the Ciclovía
- Mr. Vitolo will route the BAC emails to Mr. Dempsey for replies or forwarding.

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.