

## **Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)**

Meeting Minutes for July 6, 2009

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Harry Margolis, Tommy Vitolo, John Dempsey, Cynthia Snow

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Andrew Moulton, Sam Comerchero

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 6/1/09

### **The minutes from the June 1, 2009, meeting were approved.**

#### **Welcome new participants**

- There were no new participants.

#### **Discount program for bicyclers – Albrecht**

Rebecca Albrecht gave a report about the Green Streets Initiative

- GoGreenStreets.org is the web address.
- Janie Katz is the director.
- They sponsor “Walk Fridays” on the last Friday of each month.
- Discounts at local merchants are offered to those who commute to work, school, or shops car-free and wear green.
- They suggest starting a program in the schools.
- They survey for baseline data and then update data every month.
- Popular in Arlington, Cambridge, Somerville.
- Discounts might be for coffee, or raffle tickets

#### **Discussion**

- We would need a leader to take on such a project.
- That person needs to oversee and stimulate the program and recruit others.
- Another person needs to contact businesses and work out discounts.
- Another person needs to be a liaison to the school leaders.
- Perhaps partner with Public Health? Police? PTOs?
- Perhaps start with a car-free day coordinated with international car-free school day in September of every year.
- No one seemed willing to take on the project at this time.

#### **Ciclovía – Dempsey**

- Mr. Dempsey met with Captain O’Leary and Officer McNeil to introduce them to the idea of a ciclovía in Brookline.
- Captain O’Leary’s had many questions and comments.
- Does it have to be the entire length of Beacon eastbound?
- Would Harvard Street be a better site?
- Can committee give details of what would be required in terms of police help? DPW help?
- Police overtime is a consideration. Officers must be hired for a minimum of four hours.
- Overtime comes out of the police dept. budget.
- Late August is a hard time to get officers to take overtime: vacations, tired from summer detail work.
- Committee should start with the Selectmen. Police will take direction from them.
- Contact Marge Amster to get the businesses to support a ciclovía.
- The police are open to the idea. Though they have questions, they did not say “No.”

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

- Mr. Dempsey and Mr. McNamara will meet to get the photographs onto the web site.
- Mr. Dempsey will check with Town Counsel about putting photos of children on the web site.
- Ms. Snow will help enter email addresses from bike parade registrations.

### **State Bicycle Grants - Margolis**

- Mr. Margolis reported that the problem with the grants is that the Town must hire a planner for \$50,000 before projects can be approved.
- The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is checking to see if the Town can use its in-house planners to fulfill that requirement.
- Mr. Margolis will check with Mr. Kirrane in August to see if there is more information.

### **Column in the TAB - Heineman**

- Mr. Heineman was not present to report.

### **Bike Racks – Snow**

- The proposal for funding racks by private businesses or individuals is going ahead.
- Ms. Snow distributed drafts of a possible brochure announcing the program.
- Mr. Kirrane has ordered the hitches that attach to the parking meters.
- Mr. Kirrane will determine where they go.

### **Committee membership – Margolis**

- Mr. Margolis announced he will not serve after his term ends in August.
- Mr. Margolis will tell Mr. Kirrane of his decision.

### **August Meeting Date**

- We will meet on Monday, August 31, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School. This will constitute the September 2009 meeting. Mr. Margolis will inform Mr. Kirrane.

### **New business**

- Mr. Moulton asked about the Carlton Street plans.
- His suggestion was that bicyclists should be encouraged to use Carlton Street northbound instead of cutting through the residential streets.
- He raised aesthetic concerns about pavement markings on the neighborhood streets if bicyclists were encouraged to use the neighborhood streets.

### **Adjournment:**

- We adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

### **Assignments:**

- Mr. Margolis will contact Selectman Goldstein about a ciclovia.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact Ms. Amster about a ciclovia.
- Mr. Dempsey and Mr. McNamara will meet to get the parade photographs onto the web site.
- Mr. Dempsey will check with Town Counsel about putting photos of children on the web site.
- Ms. Snow will help enter email addresses from bike parade registrations.
- Mr. Margolis will check with Mr. Kirrane in August about the state grants.
- Mr. Margolis will tell Mr. Kirrane of his decision to resign.
- Mr. Margolis will inform Mr. Kirrane that the August 31 meeting will constitute the September meeting.

### **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.