

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for August 31, 2009

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Harry Margolis, Mitch Heineman, Tommy Vitolo, Don McNamara, Cynthia Snow, John Dempsey,

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Andy Moulton, Robert Nagle, Catharine Verhulst, Tracy Gabridge, Neil Gordon,

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 7/6/09

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

Welcome new participants

• Robert Nagle, Catharine Verhulst, Tracy Gabridge, and Neil Moulton attended. They noticed the solicitation for new members that was printed in the Brookline TAB. All said they were motivated by the wish to make bicycling safer in Brookline.

Ciclovia – Margolis

- Mr. Margolis met with Selectman Goldstein and Transportation Administrator Todd Kirrane.
- Mr. Margolis reported that Mr. Goldstein's original idea was to have a ciclovia on Harvard Street but he was open to other ideas.
- Beacon Street eastbound from Washington Street to Harvard Street was discussed.
- The Marion Street crossing was noted as a possible problem.
- Mr. Kirrane will talk to the DPW and the Police.
- Mr. Goldstein will talk to people with commercial interests.
- Possible date would be Sunday, October 11, 2009. (Columbus Day weekend)
- Mr. Dempsey met with Commercial Areas Coordinator Marge Amster to inform her about the ciclovia concept.
- The BAC felt that a decision should be made by September 12 so an October 11 event could be publicized.
- Mr. Margolis will pursue the ciclovia idea with Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Kirrane.

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

- Mr. McNamara will work to get the photographs up.

Bike count - Vitolo

- Bike counts should be done in midweek between Tuesday, September 15 and Thursday, September 24, 2009.
- We should get standing counts e.g. BHS, Coolidge Corner) and moving counts during the morning commute (7:45 – 9:15 AM) on non-rainy days.
- We need about 12 counters.
- Mr. Vitolo explained the count sheets and details.
- Mr. Vitolo will coordinate counters and intersections.

Bike racks program – Snow

- The proposal for funding public racks by private businesses or individuals is ready to go.
- Ms. Snow will ask for the program to be put on the Transportation Board agenda.

Bike sharing – Vitolo

- Mr. Kirrane has been working on the bike-sharing concept.
- Mr. Margolis will ask Mr. Kirrane to come to a meeting or put bike sharing on the Transportation Board agenda.

Commonwealth Avenue, Boston proposed changes – Vitolo

- Mr. Vitolo reported about the public meeting about Commonwealth Avenue (Back Bay) proposed bike lanes.

Carlton Street Corridor – Vitolo

- Mr. Vitolo reported about the history of the Carlton Street Corridor concept.
- The most contentious issues involve the narrow width of Carlton Street between Monmouth Street and Ivy Street - particularly from Beacon Street to Ivy Street.
- Three DPW proposals for the Beacon to Ivy section: 1) Do nothing, 2) Remove the first four parking spaces, 3) Restrict parking in the first four spaces – 8-10 AM and 4-6 PM.
- Mr. Vitolo will make changes to the BAC recommendation and circulate it to members.
- The BAC recommendation was approved contingent on the changes to be made by Mr. Vitolo and Ms. Snow and comments from the membership.
- Mr. Vitolo will send the completed BAC recommendation to Mr. Kirrane and Mr. Sandman.

Column in the TAB – Heineman

- Mr. Heineman and Mr. Gordon will work on resurrecting the Muddy Rider column.

Committee membership – Margolis

- Ms. Snow was elected by acclamation to succeed Mr. Margolis as chairman.
- Mr. Margolis' was noted for his equanimity, perspicacity, good humor, and attention to detail during his term as chairman.

October meeting date

- We will meet on Monday, October 5, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.
- Mr. Dempsey will set the 2009-2010 calendar and reserve the room. (October 5, November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12)

New business

- Mr. Moulton suggested a change to the Carlton Street Corridor plan: since the turn off of Mountfort Street onto Lenox Street has been blocked off and there is a proposal for “no parking” on the last block of Carlton Street, wouldn't Lenox Street be a good route for northbound bicyclists? That would make a contra-flow lane on Ivy Street unnecessary.

Adjournment:

- We adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Assignments:

- Mr. Margolis will pursue the ciclovía idea with Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Kirrane with September 12 as a deadline for an October 11 event.
- Mr. McNamara will work to get the photographs up on the web site.
- Mr. Vitolo will coordinate the bike count.
- Ms. Snow will ask for the bike rack donation program to be put on the Transportation Board agenda.
- Mr. Margolis will ask Mr. Kirrane to come to a meeting or put bike sharing on the Transportation Board agenda.

- Mr. Vitolo and Ms. Snow will make changes to the BAC recommendation and circulate it to members.
- The BAC membership will read, comment on, and approve the changes to be made by Mr. Vitolo and Ms. Snow on the Carlton Street Corridor recommendations.
- Ms. Snow will send the completed BAC recommendation to Mr. Kirrane and Mr. Sandman.
- Mr. Heineman and Mr. Gordon will work on resurrecting the Muddy Rider column.
- Mr. Dempsey will set the 2009-2010 calendar and reserve the room.

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.