

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2009

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, Tommy Vitolo, Don McNamara, John Dempsey

Transportation Board Representative: Peter Furth

Police Department Representative: Kevin Sullivan

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Paul Larabee, Catharine Verhulst, Alan Ostrovski, Paul Epstein, Andy Roy, Jennifer Kline, Robert Rasmussen, Jonathan Simmons

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 8/31/09, List of Recommendations, Bike Census 2009

The minutes from the August 31, 2009, meeting were approved.

Welcome new participants

- Paul Larabee, Alan Ostrovski, Paul Epstein, Andy Roy, Jennifer Kline, Robert Rasmussen, Jonathan Simmons

Bicycle Accidents – Snow

- Ms. Snow introduced Officer Kevin Sullivan of the Brookline Police Traffic Division.
- Officer Sullivan will meet regularly with the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- There were 43 reports to the police of bicycle accidents in 2008 (32 so far in 2009).
- Officer Sullivan distributed a copy of the police report of the bicycle fatality at 30 Longwood Avenue and a copy of the dispatch notes of another accident.
- Officer Sullivan will forward to Mr. Furth a sample of 20 accident reports from 2009.
- Mr Furth will analyze the reports for raw data asking the question, “What do we want to get out of the reports?”(e.g. Where? Fault of whom? Time of day? Weather?).
- Mr. Dempsey will send Officer Sullivan a copy of the BAC calendar for 2009-2010.

Brookline High School Bicycle Club – Dempsey

- Mr. Dempsey introduced Mr. Alan Ostrovski (BHS student) and Mr. Paul Epstein (BHS social worker).
- Mr. Ostrovski explained the formation of a new bicycling club at BHS based on a previous club.
- They have organized weekend rides of 25-30 miles and presented at the Activities Fair.
- They plan to have safety clinics, bike repair clinics, group rides, and multi-day rides.
- They will explore the idea of sponsoring a race – possibly to complement the bike parade in May. (e.g. Summit Avenue, Cottage Farm)

Green Expo on October 18, 2009 – Vitolo

- Mr. Vitolo secured a table for the event and contacted Landry’s and Urban AdvenTours.
- Landry’s will supply bicycle lights and UA will supply t-shirts for the BAC to sell at cost.
- BAC members are needed to staff the table.

Community Development Block Grants for Bike Lanes – Furth

- The following recommendations for action were presented, discussed, and passed unanimously:

- 1) The crossing from Essex Street to Mountfort Street

- The Transportation Board designate as a shared use path the sidewalk on the inner loop of Mountfort Street between Commonwealth Avenue and the proposed bike crossing from Essex Street, signed and/or marked fro northbound bicycle travel.
- The proposed bicycle crossing include a ramp to this shared path.
- The Mountfort Street median at the crossing be widened to 6 feet.

2) Longwood Avenue

- Marked bicycle lane in the eastbound direction.
- Marked bicycle priority lane in the westbound direction.

3) Cypress Street South of Route 9

- Develop a plan for bike lanes.
- Coordinate the above with planning for CBGD funds before the February deadline.

4) Muddy River Path's Route 9 Crossing

- The Transportation Board and the Department of Planning and Community Development initiate planning (in coordination with MassHighway, the DCR, and the City of Boston) for a path crossing on the Curley Overpass/Riverway Bridge.

5) Crossing from Parkway Road to the Muddy River Path

- The Transportation Board and the Department of Planning and Community Development initiate planning for a crossing that includes a traffic signal (most likely as part of the Aspinwall Avenue/Brookline Avenue Intersection), a ramp from the path to Brookline Avenue, a crosswalk, and a curb extension on the east side of Brookline Avenue.
- This should include engineering and funding plans.

6) Re-Striping of bike lanes in worn sections

- Harvard Street south of Beacon is in particular need of re-striping.

7) Westbourne Terrace

- Establish a contraflow lane on Westbourne Terrace.

Carlton Street Plan – Vitolo, Furth

- There was not enough time to discuss this item.

Bike count – Snow, Furth

- Ms. Snow submitted the results of the September 2009 bike counts at 12 sites.

Ciclovia - Margolis

There was not enough time to discuss this item.

Fines for parking in bike lanes – Furth

- Mr. Furth explained that to increase the fines a majority in Town Meeting has to petition the Legislature.

Re-Paving Projects – All

- Of the six possible projects slated for re-paving, the BAC thought that Westbourne Terrace was the site most in need of bicycle improvements.
- Recommended striping a contraflow lane on Westbourne Terrace.

Walk/Ride Friday - Dempsey

- Mr. Dempsey reported that the event was lightly attended.
- The Police Department was there to distribute free bike helmets.
- The effort is being led by the Town Human Resources Department.

Other Business

- Mr. Vitolo reported that there will be a hearing on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, about the newest warrant article to establish mandatory bike registration.
- Mr. Dempsey will talk to the police about a date for the 2010 Bike Parade.
- Mr. Kirrane has four applications for membership to the BAC.
- Attention was called to the Ghost Bike at 30 Longwood Avenue.

Next Meeting

- We will meet on Monday, November 2, 2009, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

Adjournment:

- We adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Assignments:

- Mr. Furth will analyze the reports for raw data asking the question, “What do we want to get out of the reports?”(e.g. Where? Fault of whom? Time of day? Weather?).
- Mr. Dempsey will send Officer Sullivan a copy of the BAC calendar for 2009-2010.
- Mr. Vitolo will get supplies from Landry’s and UrbanAdventours for the BAC table at the Green Expo
- BAC members will staff the table at the Green Expo on October 18, 2009.
- Ms. Snow will submit the BAC recommendations for Transportation Board action to Mr. Kirrane.
- Mr. Dempsey will try to establish a date for the 2010 Bike Parade.

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.