

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

Meeting Minutes for December 7, 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 Larrabee, Aina Rogel, Amit Rogel, Noah Bloomstein, Jonathan Safer, Ori Kishony

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 11/2/09, 2009 Bike Count Summary

### **The minutes from the November 2, 2009, meeting were approved.**

#### **Welcome new participants**

• We welcomed students Amit Rogel, Noah Bloomstein, Jonathan Safer, and Ori Kishony and parent Aina Rogel.

#### **Bicycle Accidents – All**

- We discussed what additional information we want from the police records about bicycle accidents.
- 2-3 sentence summary of what happened.
- Date, time, and location?
- Helmet?
- Lights and reflectors at night?
- Weather conditions? Visibility?
- We want to look at two years worth of data.
- Mr. Vitolo said the *Boston Phoenix* of 9/4/09 reported that the City of Cambridge collects excellent bike accident data and uses that information to apply for federal grant money to make improvements.
- Mr. Furth will talk to the Cambridge Bicycle Coordinator.
- The point was made that bike accidents that did not involve a motor vehicle might not be easily identified in the police database or might not even be in the database.
- Ms. Snow will meet Officer Sullivan to go over bike accident data.

#### **Bicycle Registration and Education**

- Mandatory bicycle registration was defeated in Town Meeting once again.
- We discussed the merits of, and opportunities for, voluntary registration.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact the Bicycle Safety Officer.

#### **Bike Count – Snow and Furth**

- Mr. Furth reported about the Bike Count data.

#### **Bike lanes on Beacon Street - All**

- Ms. Snow reported that she had a heightened sense of the dangers of Beacon Street where there is no marked bike lane after thinking about the improvements made on Longwood Avenue and to be made on Carlton Street.
- Beacon Street is still under contract between the Town and the contractor
- We decided to table the Beacon Street discussion at this time.
- As for Longwood Avenue improvements, we did discuss how to determine if there was harmony between the intended use of the bike lane and the “lane within a lane” and the actual use of those improvements.

#### **Ciclovia - All**

- Mr. Furth spoke with Selectman Goldstein.
- Mr. Furth will talk to Selectman Goldstein some more.

### **Bike Parade – Dempsey**

- Mr. Dempsey notified the police of the date of Sunday, May 23, 2010, and the permits are moving through the Transportation Department and the Commissioner.
- Perhaps the goal this year will be to have 1000+ riders.
- Mr. Dempsey said that we need to raise money for the 2010 event.
- The Parks Division seems interested in partnering with the Bike Committee again for 2010.
- Mr. Dempsey reported on other successful bicycle parades (e.g. Fort Collins, Colorado) and Guinness record protocols.
- The BHS Bicycle Club may try to coordinate a race to complement the event.

### **Web site – All**

- Discussion about whether we should have a Massachusetts bike law link on our web site..

### **Other Business**

- A group of seventh graders introduced themselves as the Top Secret Team.
- They are entering a robotics competition.
- One requirement is to do a public service project.
- They chose to do bike safety and convenience.
- They will lobby for an increase in the fine when motor vehicles are cited for parking in a marked bike lane.
- They will speak to Selectman Goldstein on December 8, 2009.
- They expect to make a presentation to the Spring Town Meeting of 2010.
- Officer Sullivan said that the current fine is \$25 for double parking.
- A suggestion was made that a percentage of money collected for bike lane violations be used for bicycle safety improvements.
- There was discussion about unintended consequences of raising fine amounts.
- The Team also performed a short skit about bike safety.

### **Next Meeting**

- We will meet on Monday, January 4, 2009, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

### **Adjournment:**

- We adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

### **Assignments:**

- Mr. Furth will talk to the Cambridge Bicycle Coordinator.
- Ms. Snow will meet Officer Sullivan to go over bike accident data.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact the Brookline Police Safety Officer.
- Mr. Furth will talk to Selectman Goldstein about a ciclovia.