

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for January 4, 2010

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, Tommy Vitolo, Mitch Heineman, John Dempsey

Transportation Board Representative:

Police Department Representative: Kevin Sullivan

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Paul Larrabee, Catharine Verhulst, Peggy Ueda, Andy Moulton, Jonathan Simmons

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 12/7/09, 2009

The minutes from the December 7, 2009, meeting were approved.

Welcome new participants

- Peggy Ueda was a first time attendee.

Bicycle Accidents – Snow

- Officer Sullivan reported that the month was fairly quiet
- Ms. Snow will meet with Officer Sullivan on Wednesday, January 6, 2009, to go over bike accident data.

Brookline Community Climate Challenge

- Climate Change Action Brookline is working with other organizations to help Brookline residents, businesses, and government agencies cut carbon emissions in 2010.
- The launch party will be on Sunday, January 10 from 3-5 on the top floor of the Unified Arts Building at 46 Tappan Street.
- The Bicycle Advisory Committee was invited to be a partner in the endeavor. We agreed.
- Ms. Snow will send the Brookline 2010 Sign On form to Mary Dewart.
- There was a discussion about what specific actions the BAC could do to help people reduce their carbon footprints. Ideas included:
 - We are a resource for individuals and groups that want to use bicycles more.
 - We can offer bicycling support groups.
 - We can get advice from CRW about mileage pledges/commitments to bike.
 - We can help organize Car-Free Days at the schools.
 - We can contact Mary Minott's class at BHS.
 - We run the Bike Parade to encourage and celebrate bicycling.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact Sandra DeBow in Human Resources about Car-Free Days.

Bike Parade – Dempsey

- There was a discussion about possible enhancements to the Bike Parade:
 - Adding a longer loop
 - Adding a bike rodeo
 - Adding bike polo at the end
 - Adding a race
- Mr. Dempsey will continue to coordinate the Bike Parade as originally conceived.
- We need to approach donors, printers, graphic artists for support.

Other Business

- Mr. Dempsey contacted Safety Officer Prentice Pilot to talk about BAC members helping with voluntary bicycle registrations at community events, elementary classes, Car-Free Days, the Bike Parade, and other places where people might be on bicycles. Officer Pilot was receptive and will contact Mr. Dempsey in the spring.
- There was discussion about the best way and/or the best protocol to review bicycle issues with the DPW a week or so before specific plans for street improvements come up for discussion at the Transportation

Board. What is the best way to modify the plans before they are presented to the public so the resulting public discussion is less about technical minutiae and more about policy issues? Perhaps Town Counsel can offer some guidance about how such a request would fit with the Open Meeting Law.

- Mr. Moulton asked about the status of the Carlton Street Corridor plans – specifically about how northbound bicyclists who get through the choke point at Beacon Street will cross the BU Bridge. He is also interested in the southbound crossing because it involves a contraflow on Essex St. He has aesthetic (signage and street markings that could be at odds with the character and look of the historic neighborhood) and safety concerns (such as at Mountfort and Essex). He feels that there was so much discussion about the choke point that the rest of the route was never fully vetted. Mr. Moulton wondered what the plans are, what progress is being made, and what are the mechanisms for resolving issues.

Next Meeting

- We will meet on Monday, February 1, 2010, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

Adjournment:

- We adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Assignments:

- Ms. Snow will meet with Officer Sullivan to go over bike accident data on 1/6/09.
- Ms. Snow will send the Brookline 2010 Sign On form to Mary Dewart.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact Sandra DeBow in Human Resources about Car-Free Days.
- Mr. Dempsey will continue to coordinate the Bike Parade as originally conceived.