

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for February 1, 2010

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, Tommy Vitolo, Chris Dippel, John Dempsey

Transportation Board Representative: Bill Schwartz

Police Department Representative: Kevin Sullivan

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Andy Moulton, Harry Margolis, Peter Furth

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 1/4/10

The minutes from the January 4, 2010, meeting were approved.

An error of date in the May 4, 2009, minutes was noted and corrected.

Welcome new participants

- Chris Dippel and Bill Schwartz were welcomed.

Bicycle Accidents – Snow

- Ms. Snow used the police computer to get data on 12 bicycle accident reports from 2009.
- The only additional information available to the general public was “time of accident.”
- Officer Sullivan will go over reports for more data about 2008-2009 bike accidents.
- The Committee asked for a tabulation of relevant data plus “a sentence or two of narrative about the nature of the accident.”
- For example: helmet? weather? dooring? injury? transport to hospital? fault? contributing factors?
- Mr. Furth will send Officer Sullivan a sample from another police department.

Brookline Parks Bike Racks - Vitolo

- Mr. Vitolo has had discussions with the Parks Division about including bike racks when planning park renovations.
- Mr. Vitolo recommended they stick with the inverted “U” or the “post and hoop” designs for bike racks.
- The Committee was in agreement with this recommendation.
- They have not discussed placement yet.

Bike Parade – Dempsey

- There are expenses this year that we did not have in the first two years – mainly graphic artist, printer
- We have a graphic artist. We do not have a printer as yet.
- We will have a band, ice cream, portable toilets.
- Chobee Hoy has committed some financial support.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact Mr. McNamara about updating the web site.
- Mr. Vitolo will design an electronic survey to be administered after the event.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact school liaisons.
- Mr. Dempsey needs help using social networking sites to get the word out.
- Mr. Dempsey will supply copy to Mr. Vitolo to get the message out using our e-mail list.
- Mr. Dempsey will seek more funds.
- Suggestions were made: food vendors, ask politicians who are not running for office to donate from campaign funds, enlist high school students for networking help, and graphic art help.

Review of Netherlands Road/Parkway Road contraflow lane design

- Mr. Furth submitted a draft report of recommendations for improving the signs and markings.
- The committee made some changes and approved the document unanimously.
- Mr. Furth will make the agreed upon edits.
- Ms. Snow will present it to the Transportation Board and to the DPW staff.

Method for BAC input to Transportation Board on bicycle issues

- Ms. Snow raised the issue of a protocol for how the BAC can best advise the Transportation Board and staff.

- For example: it would save time and money and ill will if we had a mechanism for advising staff before some of the final detail work is installed.
- Netherlands Road improvements were used as an example.
- Do we need a mechanism for a less formal dialog?
- Does the staff need a resource person to look at the plans before they go out to the public and the Transportation Board?
- Is there a better way for the BAC to be included in the planning process?
- Should we have a “design review” process?
- Mr. Furth will redraft BAC recommendations for the Netherlands Road changes
- Ms. Snow will present to the Transportation Board appreciation for the staff work and thoughts about how to improve the process so that we can avoid problems when work begins on the Carlton Street Corridor. She will use the Netherlands Road recommendations as an example.

Follow-up

- 1) Brookline 2010 Climate Challenge – Excellent event. BAC was represented
- 2) Netherlands Road – Discussion about markings and signage. Mr. Furth will revise recommendations and Ms. Snow will present to the Transportation Board.
- 3) Crossing Brookline Avenue between Parkway Rd and Muddy River Path – pending planning and funding for traffic light.
- 4) Mountfort Street and Essex Street crossing – pending final design of BU Bridge.
- 5) Longwood Avenue bike lanes – in process.
- 6) Route 9 crossing – Ms. Snow and Mr. Furth will meet with Mr. Levine.
- 7) Bike Lanes on Cypress Street south of Route 9 – pending CIP funding.
- 8) Restriping of bike lanes on Harvard Street – DPW Spring 2010 work.
- 9) Green routes projects

Other Business

- Mr. Vitolo reported that there will be some traffic flow changes to Harvard Street on the north side of Beacon Street. They will include a bike lane.
- Mr. Vitolo reported that some residents were concerned for the safety of southbound bicyclists trying to get on the Carlton Street footbridge after renovations are made to the bridge.
- Mr. Moulton reiterated concerns about sign clutter and pavement markings along the Carlton Street Corridor.
- Mr. Margolis reported on plans for a ciclovia.
 He met with Mr. Kirrane and Mr. Goldstein.
 The idea was to close Beacon Street eastbound from Washington Street to Webster Street.
 It would be on Sunday, June 6 from 10 AM to 2 PM.
 There would barriers for drivers exiting garages and driveways.
- The BAC asked questions and made suggestions about the ciclovia. Mr. Margolis will consider them.

Next Meeting

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

Adjournment:

- We adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Assignments:

- Officer Sullivan will go over reports for more data about 2008-2009 bike accidents.
- Officer Sullivan will tabulate relevant data and include “a sentence or two of narrative about the nature of the accident.” For example: helmet? weather? dooring? injury? transport to hospital? fault? contributing factors?
- Mr. Furth will send Officer Sullivan a sample report from another police department.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact Mr. McNamara about updating the web site.
- Mr. Vitolo will design an electronic survey to be administered after the Bike Parade.
- Mr. Dempsey will contact school liaisons about the Bike Parade.
- Mr. Dempsey will supply copy to Mr. Vitolo to get the Bike Parade message out using our e-mail list.

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- Ms. Snow will present to the Transportation Board appreciation for the staff work and thoughts about how to improve the process so that we can avoid problems when work begins on the Carlton Street Corridor. She will use the Netherlands Road recommendations as an example.
- Ms. Snow and Mr. Furth will meet with Mr. Levine about the Route 9 crossing.
- Mr. Furth and Mr. Moulton will meet with Mr. Kirrane about the Carlton Street improvements.
- Ms. Snow will request from Mr. Ditto an updated list of street repaving projects for 2010.