

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for May 3, 2010

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, Mitch Heineman, Don McNamara, John Dempsey

Transportation Board Representative: Bill Schwartz

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Peter Furth, Sibyl Senters, Peggy Ueda

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 4/5/10, Bicycle Parking on the Public Way By-Law

The minutes from the April 5, 2010, meeting were approved.

Proposed fine for blocking bike lanes – Snow and Schwartz

- As requested by the Transportation Board, the Committee discussed the proposal to institute a separate violation and fine for motor vehicles stopped or parked in a bicycle lane.
- The Committee felt that it was important to have a targeted law (that the police could agree with) because parkers in the bicycle lanes force bicyclists into moving traffic. That is a serious safety issue particularly for less experienced riders and less traffic-tolerant cyclists.
- Ms. Snow will draft a letter with the following points:
 - 1) The Committee supports the proposed law.
 - 2) The law would safeguard cyclists.
 - 3) We recommend a fine of \$50.
 - 4) Educating the public and strict enforcement by the police are essential ingredients.
 - 5) We recommend identifying the violation as a distinct item on traffic tickets as one way to facilitate enforcement and public awareness.

Bicycle Parking on the Public Way/Abandoned Bicycles

- Ms. Snow distributed photocopies of the bylaw about bicycle parking on the public way and identifying and removing abandoned bicycles.
- There was a short discussion of the issue.
- It was noted that there are a number of apparently abandoned bicycles around town. The police and the DPW have been notified about many of them, but no action seems to have been taken since April 2009.

Bike Parade – Dempsey – Sunday, May 23, 2010

- Ms. Ueda will get posters to Driscoll and Pierce and storefronts in Washington Square.
- Ms. Senters will get posters to Runkle, REI, City Sports, EMS, and BHS (Hal Mason contact)
- Mr. Dempsey has delivered posters to Devotion, Heath, Baker, and Lincoln.
- Mr. Heineman will get posters to Landry's.
- Ms. Albrecht will get posters to International. And try to twist the Trader Joe's arm.
- Mr. Furth will get posters to the reincarnation of Beacon Street Bicycles.
- Mr. McNamara will put up posters in Coolidge Corner storefronts.
- Mr. Dempsey will put up posters in Brookline Village and The Point.
- Each of us will recruit at least one parade marshal.
- Each of us will distribute cards.
- Mr. Dempsey has extra cards and posters.

Open Space Planning – Dippel (by written memo)

- The Open Space Plan Committee has established subcommittees.
- Bicycle issues are included in the Greenways subcommittee for which Mr. Dippel has volunteered.
- The Green Networks Report is being submitted for possible inclusion in the Open Space Plan.

Newton Bike Rally, May 16 – Dempsey

- Mr. Dempsey will represent the BAC at the Bike Newton Bike Rally.
- Bike Newton representatives plan to attend the Brookline Bike Parade once again.

Review of Brookline Green Routes Network Plan - Furth

- Mr. Furth presented an excellent powerpoint about the Green Network Plan.
- There was agreement to identify from the Plan nine infrastructure improvements that would have small budgets and one improvement that would be more complicated and expensive.
- Mr. Furth, Ms. Snow, and Ms. Senters will draft the list.

Route 9/Gateway East Plans – Furth

- Mr. Furth reported on the plans presented to the Gateway East Committee.

Summer BAC Meetings

- Ms. Snow will miss the June and July meetings.
- Mr. Vitolo will chair those meetings.

Follow-up

- Bicycle accidents
- Bike ramp for Carlton Street Footbridge to the Muddy River Park
- South Street
- Netherlands and Parkway Roads contra-flow lanes
(Ms. Snow expects a response from Mr. Ditto and Mr. Kirrane by May 10, 2010.)
- Brookline Avenue crossing
- Mountfort and Essex crossing
- Longwood Avenue
(Ms. Snow will draft a letter urging repaving particularly in the light of the death of a cyclist in that section in September 2009.)
- Route 9 crossing
- Cypress Street
- Harvard Street restriping
- Carlton Street Corridor

Other business

- Mr. Furth reported that the National Association of City Transportation Officials, frustrated that the state traffic manuals don't address the unique realities of city traffic, will write their own manual. A group of which Mr. Furth is a member has been picked to write the manual. This is a national distinction.

Next Meeting

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

Adjournment:

- We adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

Assignments:

- Ms. Snow will draft a letter to the Transportation Board stating BAC support for a law about blocking bike lanes.
- Bike Parade assignments above.
- Mr. Dempsey will represent the BAC at the Bike Newton Bike Rally on May 16.
- Mr. Furth, Ms. Snow, and Ms. Senters will draft the list of Green Routes projects for consideration at the next BAC meeting.
- Ms. Snow will draft a letter urging the repaving of Longwood Avenue.
- Mr. Vitolo will chair the June and July meetings.