

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2010

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, John Dempsey, Chris Dippel, Mitch Heineman, Tommy Vitolo, Bill Schwartz (Transportation Board Representative)

Absent: Don McNamara,

Guest: Nicole Freedman, Director of Bicycle Programs for the City of Boston

Public: Rebecca Albrecht

Handouts: Agenda, Bike Count Summary

The minutes from the November 2, 2010, meeting were approved.

Discussion with Nicole Freedman, Director, Boston Bikes

- Nicole Freedman, Director of Bicycle Programs for the City of Boston, spoke and answered questions around the basic premise: “The #1 obstacle to bicycling is safety, so what are we doing about that and what else can we do?”
- Ms. Freeman agreed to work with the BAC on the following: advertising the Bike Parade to the City's Hub on Wheels list, contacting us when it is time to organize a bike convoy from Newton etc. for this summer's Bike Fridays, and alerting us to any plans involving the main Boston-Brookline routes (e.g. Beacon St.).

Bicycle accidents (since September 2009) – Officer Sullivan

- Officer Sullivan was not present. No discussion.

Bump outs on Stedman St. and elsewhere

- Discussion about bump outs was prompted by resident inquiry about modifications to Stedman Street during summer of 2010.
- Item was tabled with the understanding that committee members will do some research, make a list of design “parameters” when bump outs are called for, and decide how best to communicate those parameters to the design staff.

Bike counts – Snow

- Ms. Snow distributed a summary showing numbers for three years in a row.

Review of suggested revisions to Green Routes Plan

- Please read the revised Green Routes Plan and submit comments to Ms. Snow.
- Ms. Snow and Mr. Vitolo will meet with Mr. Kirrane to discuss the revisions.

Follow-up

Warrant article regarding children transported on/behind bicycles

- Mr. Vitolo reported on the Town Meeting discussion and vote on the warrant article about transporting children on bikes or in trailers.
- The Advisory Committee recommendation (call for our representatives to the General Court to bring the matter to the legislature) was rejected by a wide margin.

Proposed list of projects for Transportation Board tracking

- We will use the Green Routes Plan to guide us instead of a separate document.
- Monthly updates.

Comments on Chestnut Hill Square project

- Mr. Sandman will put on the Transportation Board agenda
- Detailed BAC recommendations were sent to Mr. Sandman.

BAC event for Climate Week (January 27, 2011)

- We will hold a design charrette about improvements to the Lee and Clyde Streets corridor.
- Scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2011, at Devotion School.
- Has been announced in Climate Change Action Brookline (CCAB) literature.

Open Space Planning - Dippel

- Mr. Dippel assured us that Open Space Committee members were well aware of the Green Routes Plan.
- Mr. Dippel is hoping for a more explicit definition of “greenways.”
- Draft is being worked on.
- No information about when the report will be available.

Bike Parade (May 15, 2011)

- Date has been set and has been sent to the Police Department for review and planning.
- Short discussion of alternatives for extending the route in Brookline and/or Boston and Newton. No action.

Other business

- The initial CIP document lists \$50,000 for bicycle infrastructure improvements.

Next Meeting

- We will meet next on Monday, January 3, 2011, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

Adjournment

- We adjourned at approximately 8:47 P.M.

Assignments

- Committee members will research bump outs and make a list of “parameters” for design when bump outs are called for, and decide how best to communicate those parameters to the design staff.
- Committee members will read the revised Green Routes Plan and submit comments to Ms. Snow.
- Ms. Snow and Mr. Vitolo will meet with Mr. Kirrane to discuss the Green Routes Plan revisions and the Chestnut Hill Square project.

Open Meeting Rules

- A meeting must be posted to the Town Calendar at least one week before the meeting is to take place.
- Posting must include (in pdf format) date, time, and place of the meeting and a listing of the topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting, contact person, and contact e-mail address.
- 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.
- Minutes must include (1) the date, time, and place of the meeting; (2) members present or absent; (3) a summary of the discussions on each subject; (4) a list of the documents and other exhibits used at the meeting; and (5) decisions made and actions taken at each meeting, including the record of all votes.
- Within two subsequent meetings we must post to the website a copy of the minutes in pdf format.