

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for January 3, 2011

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, Tommy Vitolo, Don McNamara

Absent: Mitch Heineman, Bill Schwartz (Transportation Board Representative)

Police Liaison: Officer Kevin Sullivan

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Brendan Larabee, Peter Furth

Handouts: Agenda, Projects to Develop the Green Routes Network

The minutes from the December 6, 2010, meeting were approved.

Bicycle accidents (since September 2009) – Officer Sullivan

- Officer Sullivan reported that the computer ran the information.
- Officer Sullivan will gather the data for the February meeting.

Other bicycle information from the police – Officer Sullivan

- The ghost bike at Longwood and Sewall was removed by the police.
- Ticket books that reflect the fine for blocking bike lanes have not been printed yet.
- Ten bike officers have been added to the patrol division (8 patrolmen, 2 officers).
- Discussion about/reactions to the bike lane in front of Brookline Booksmith.

Bump outs on Stedman St. and elsewhere

- Ms. Snow sent BAC members links to sites about bump outs.
- The question was raised, “Is the DPW following the state guidelines?”
- Discussion about bump outs versus speed humps on Welland Road.
- Ms. Snow will write a letter to the Transportation Board with 4 points:
 - 1) A Stedman Street resident raised the question: “Are bump outs dangerous for bicyclists?”
 - 2) That question prompted discussion and a look at the state regulations for bump outs.
 - 3) Remind the staff to look at the regulations before designing bump outs.
 - 4) Raise the question “Could bump outs work contrary to the Green Routes Plan?”

Follow-up

Comments on Chestnut Hill Square project

- Ms. Snow and Mr. Vitolo met with Mr. Kirrane.
- The City of Newton gets the money for mitigation with the stipulation that Newton cooperates with Brookline on plans to use that money.
- Ms. Snow will send an inquiry to Mr. Sandman and Mr. Kirrane asking for an update on the status of the Chestnut Hill Square project.

BAC event for Climate Week (January 27, 2011)

- Ms. Snow will send a note to Northeastern Professor Dan Dulaski about the charette.
- Mr. Dempsey will secure a projection screen for the charette.
- Mr. McNamara will publicize via the e-mail network.
- Mr. Dippel will publicize via South Brookline network.

Open Space Planning - Dippel

- Mr. Dippel reported that there was no last meeting of the planning committee.
- Staff will generate a draft of the plan.
- Mr. Dippel assured the BAC that the final plan will reference the Green Routes Plan.

Bike Parade (May 15, 2011)

- Mr. Dempsey reported that Chobee Hoy Real Estate will again contribute \$500.
- We will keep the same format as previous years.
- Mr. Larabee showed interest in organizing a bike rodeo for children after the parade.

Proposed list of projects for Transportation Board tracking

- There was a wide-ranging discussion about how best to present and use the priority list to push the Green Routes Plan forward.
- We decided to begin by first writing project summaries similar to the summaries in the CIP plan.
- For the purpose of writing the summaries each member will take 5 – 7 projects.

Next Meeting

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

Adjournment

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

Assignments

- Officer Sullivan will gather the data for the February meeting.
- Ms. Snow will write a letter to the Transportation Board with 4 points:
 - 1) A Stedman Street resident raised the question: “Are bump outs dangerous for bicyclists?”
 - 2) That question prompted discussion and a look at the state regulations for bump outs.
 - 3) Remind the staff to look at the regulations before designing bump outs.
 - 4) Raise the question “Could bump outs work contrary to the Green Routes Plan?”
- Ms. Snow will send an inquiry to Mr. Sandman and Mr. Kirrane asking for an update on the status of the Chestnut Hill Square project.
- Ms. Snow will send a note to Northeastern Professor Dan Dulaski about the charette.
- Mr. Dempsey will secure a projection screen for the charette.
- Mr. McNamara will publicize the charette via the e-mail network.
- Mr. Dippel will publicize the charette via South Brookline network.
- For the purpose of writing the summaries each member will take the following projects.
Mr. Vitolo #3-8
Mr. McNamara #9-14
Mr. Furth #15-20
Mr. Dempsey #21-26
Mr. Dippel #27-32
Ms. Snow #33-40

Examples of CIP summaries:

8. VILLAGE SQUARE CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS

This project involves reconfiguration of the existing circulation system at Washington Street, Route 9, Walnut Street, High Street, and Pearl Street. The existing jughandle used to provide access to Washington Street from Route 9 eastbound would be removed and replaced with a new four-way intersection at Pearl Street. Signals would be relocated and upgraded and a new surface-level pedestrian crosswalk with walk signal would cross Route 9 just west of Pearl Street as part of a new four-way intersection, replacing the existing pedestrian bridge that crosses Route 9. This would be an ADA-compliant crossing. This solution was developed in response to Town Meeting opposition to repairing the existing pedestrian bridge, which would be removed as part of this project. In addition, lighting and landscaping improvements will be made in the area, improving the overall aesthetics of this portion of Route 9 and Brookline Village.

The funding for the project comes from three sources:

1. a \$2.25 million Section 108 loan allowed for under the CDBG Program
2. \$750,000 as part of the 1% of off-site improvements related to the re-development of the 2 Brookline Place site
3. a \$1.5 million grant from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Estimated Cost: \$4,500,000

Time Schedule: FY 2013 -- \$2,250,000 CDBG
FY 2013 -- \$1,500,000 State Grant
FY 2013 -- \$750,000 Other (1% Off-Site Improvements from 2 Brookline Place)

RIVERWAY PARK PEDESTRIAN / BICYCLE PATH IMPROVEMENTS

There has been interest for years in a safer crossing for pedestrians and bicycles at Route 9 and the Riverway. Since the DPW completed the construction of a bike/pedestrian path in Olmsted Park, there has been increased use of this park by pedestrians and bicyclists. The path ends at the intersection with Washington Street with no means of crossing Washington Street except at the Brookline Avenue intersection. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) commissioned a study to look at viable methods of crossing Washington Street, both in Brookline and Boston.

The Gateway East Public Realm plan developed a preferred solution for this crossing, involving a widening of the median, reconfiguring existing traffic lanes, and a marked crossing. The federal transportation bill earmarked \$600,000 for construction of such an improvement. The \$40,000 in town funding

is to design the plan that the federal funds will support.

Estimated Cost: \$680,000

Time Schedule: Prior Year -- \$40,000 CDBG
FY 2013 -- \$40,000 Property Tax / Free Cash
FY 2014 -- \$600,000 Federal Grant

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 and 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.