

## **Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)**

Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2011

Submitted by Chris Dippel

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

BAC Members Present: Cynthia Snow, John Dempsey, Chris Dippel, Mitch Heineman, Don McNamara, Bill Schwartz, Tommy Vitolo

Public: Robert Amick (Lee St.), Jon Aslanian (Harvard Ave.), Dorothy Edinburg (Lee St.), Georgette Measch (Lee St.), David and Ariel Robinson, Rebecca Albrecht, Robert Rasmussen (Beals St.), Pamela Julian (Loveland Rd.)

Handouts: Agenda

### **The minutes from the July 11, 2011, meeting were approved.**

#### **Comments and Questions from the Public Attendees**

- Ms. Measch and Ms. Edinburg expressed their concern that removing a lane on Lee St. to accommodate a mixed use path would slow commercial traffic, having a negative effect on the economy of Brookline, and create difficulties for delivery trucks, ambulances, and buses. The members thanked them for their comments and noted there will be opportunities to comment on any changes to Lee St. if any are considered by the Town.
- David Robinson asked about the safety of riding at night. The members noted that lights, reflective clothes, and vigilance are needed but generally riding at night is not significantly more dangerous than riding during the day.

#### **BAC Chair for 2012**

- Ms. Snow was nominated and elected by acclamation.

#### **BU Bridge Update**

- Mr. Vitolo reported a concern that the plan for bike lanes on the bridge might be changed. Mr. Schwartz noted that the Transportation Board has and will provide input on traffic flow changes to the state authority as will other involved parties and their consultants.

#### **Green Routes Plan/CIP Priorities**

- The committee discussed how to prioritize the project list and agreed that two of the criteria will be routes that connect “attractions” like shops and schools within Brookline and other biking infrastructure outside of Brookline and “practicality,” that is, likelihood of being funded.
- The attendees discussed various routes and it was agreed that Ms. Snow will include some other priorities based on the committee’s discussion and send another draft of the Green Routes Plan.
- Mr. Heineman will update the map. Ms. Snow asked for a format that could be printed as well as downloaded.
- A proposed list of projects for Transportation Board consideration was discussed. The committee was in general agreement that there are two projects that at the top of the list worthy of CIP expenditures:
  1. Beacon Street restriping - this is tied to the status of Beacon Street in terms of whether MassDOT has handed jurisdiction back to the town. If so, then a plan that

incorporates shared lane markings, wider lanes, and better pavement markings is a top priority. This is particularly important along those sections where no accommodation is currently in place.

2. Washington Street - This represents a continuation of the bicycle accommodations on Washington between School/Cypress all the way to the Boston line. The project would include shared lane markings and bike lanes as appropriate.

Members of the BAC are looking to the Transportation Division for information on the cost of such investments. These items will be among others considered at the Transportation Board meeting on Thursday, September 15.

#### **Follow-Up**

- Hubway: Brookline will have two racks installed at Coolidge Corner and Brookline Village in next Spring. Installation of a third will need a \$50K grant.
- Ms. Snow circulated the recently *published Open Space and Recreation Plan for Brookline*, noted that there were several good references to the need for bicycle accommodations, and thanked Mr. Dippel for his service on the committee that prepared the report.

#### **Other Business**

- Ms. Snow asked if the BAC wished to set up an informational table at Brookline's Green Day at Larz Anderson Park on October 10. It was agreed and the committee will suggest materials for the table, e.g., an abstract of the Green Routes Plan and tips on safe car and bicycle use. Ms. Snow offered to staff the table 10 AM-12 PM; Mr. Dippel offered to staff it 12-2 PM.
- Enforcement: Mr. Vitolo described his experience with the enforcement of laws regulating bicycle use in the town and will be speaking with Capt. Gropman.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The committee will meet next on Monday, October 3, 2011, at 7 P.M. at the Devotion School.

#### **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.