

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2012

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, John Dempsey, Don McNamara

Absent: Chris Dippel, Mitch Heineman, Tommy Vitolo, Bill Schwartz (Transportation Board Representative), Officer Sullivan (Police liaison)

Also Attending: Captain Michael Gropman, Josh Nemzer Boston Marathon Course Director

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Peter Furth

Handouts: Agenda

Introductions

The minutes from the January 9, 2012, meeting were approved.

Bicycles on the Boston Marathon Route (April 16)

- Captain Gropman and Mr. Nemzer, explained that the number of bicyclists and bicycling groups and the speed at which they're riding the Boston Marathon route just prior to the start of the race has become an increasing safety problem. They are reaching out to the bicycling community. Their message is that bicyclists have to be off the course before it is shut down in each community along the route. For example, they must be out of Hopkinton before 7:30 AM. and, with cascading road closures, out of Brookline before 9:20 AM, etc.
- The BAC will put that information out on its email list prior to the Marathon.

Bicycle Accidents, 2011 – Officer Sullivan

- Officer Sullivan will report about bike accidents at the March 5, 2012, meeting.

Bike Parade (May 20)

- Mr. Dempsey will contact Mr. Vitolo to urge him to push out updates to the website.
- Mr. Dempsey is soliciting bike shops to provide tech support.
- The graphic artist is working to update the posters and post cards.
- The Walgreen's window and at least one Town kiosk have been reserved for the week prior to the parade.

Signage review request from Transportation staff

- The Transportation staff has asked the BAC to study the use and effectiveness of pavement markings and/or signage to keep bicyclists from riding on sidewalks in commercial areas and provide an opinion that the Transportation Board can use to decide whether or not staff should include and budget for this item in future plans. The question was raised whether it is premature to do this before there is an a safer route through Coolidge Corner.
- Ms. Snow will start by contacting the City of Cambridge.

Follow-up

- Green Routes Plan/Map
 - The Transportation Board recommended that the FY 2014 budget include markings or modifications to add contraflow lanes to sections of Dudley Road and Park Street. Similarly, they recommended that sharrows or bike lanes be added where needed on Washington Street to complete that route. Markings will follow the Manual of Uniform Traffic Standards. The Board put off a vote about contraflow lanes on Green Street.
- Climate Week Event
 - Mr. Dippel and Ms. Snow staffed the BAC table in the Health Center. They distributed literature about the Green Routes Plan and bicyclist/driver safe operations. Ms. Snow spoke about the need for more interactive activities if we attend another event.

Other Business

- The following streets are scheduled for repaving in the 2012 season: Clark, Williston, Salisbury, Princeton, Rangeley. Clark is part of the Green Routes Plan. There was discussion about adding a raised element to slow traffic on the newly resurfaced Clark Road.
- The question was raised about building a refuge island on Chestnut Hill Avenue and Clinton Road.

Next Meeting

- We will meet next on Monday, March 5, 2012, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

Adjournment

- We adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Assignments

- The BAC will put out information about bicyclists staying off the Marathon course on its email list prior to the Marathon on April 16, 2012. "Get out of town before 7:30 AM!"
- Mr. Dempsey will contact Mr. Vitolo to urge him to push out updates to the Parade website.
- Mr. Dempsey will solicit bike shops to provide tech support for the Parade.
- Ms. Snow will contact the City of Cambridge about the effectiveness of markings or signs to keep cyclists from riding on sidewalks in commercial districts.