

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2012

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, Chris Dippel, Don McNamara, Tommy Vitolo, Mitch Heineman, John Dempsey

Absent:

Bill Schwartz (Transportation Board Representative), Officer Sullivan (Police liaison)

Also Attending:

Public: Rebecca Albrecht

Handouts: Agenda, Brookline Police: Bicycle Accidents in 2011, References on Bicycling

Introductions

The minutes from the February 6, 2012, meeting were approved.

Bicycle Accidents, 2011

- Officer Sullivan sent a map of Bicycle Accidents in 2011.
- Statistics: 44 reported crashes. All involved motor vehicles. 14 cyclists were transported to the hospital. 2 cyclists did not have helmets. 3 accidents were “doorings.” July had the most (10). September was next. 29 were on Harvard and/or Beacon. Accidents were down in August. That coincided with the Brookline Police enforcement initiative.

CIP Funding for Bicycle Projects

- The CIP Sub-Committee met on 2/26/12.
- Ms. Snow sent a memo to the sub-committee.
- The Transportation Board and Staff has asked for \$123,000 for FY 13. (\$48,000 carried from last year. \$75,000 new for FY 13.)
- The CIP Sub-Committee will meet and may vote on Wednesday, March 7 at 8:15 AM. Ms. Snow will attend.
- Ms. Snow compiled a list of helpful websites for sub-committee members to educate themselves about bicycling infrastructure.
- There was a discussion about how a possible warrant article regarding contraflow lanes would interact with CIP contraflow proposals.

Bike Parade (May 20)

- Mr. Dempsey reported that several bike shops are interested in providing tech support/safety checks: Landry’s, East Coast Alpine, EMS.
- The graphic artist is still updating the posters and post cards.
- Brookline.com will be a “Gold Level” sponsor similar to BrooklineBank and Chobee Hoy Associates. Updating and blogging on the website will require some work on our part.
- Mr. Dempsey will solicit restaurants for the event.
- Friend us/like us on Facebook.

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.

- Ms. Snow contacted the City of Cambridge. Cambridge reported that bike riding on sidewalks was less of a problem as infrastructure improvements were made and bicycling became more of the “culture.” Cambridge did stencil at curb ramps, “No bike riding on sidewalk.”
- Ms. Snow will contact Nicole Freedman’s office in the City of Boston.
- Mr. Heineman suggested that, if they were deemed necessary, signs and stencils should be positive in nature (e.g. “Please walk bikes” and/or image of a person walking a bike.
- The question was raised whether it is premature to do this before there are safer routes through commercial areas.
- The Committee did not make a decision.

Summer Meetings

- Ms. Snow will miss the June 4 and July 2 meetings. She is willing to set the agendas if somebody else will chair those meetings.
- No decision.

Follow-up

Green Routes Plan is on the agenda for the March 15 Transportation Board meeting. Ms. Snow and Mr. Heineman will finish the Plan on Saturday, March 10 at 1:15 PM.

Other Business

- The Emerald Necklace Planning Group is meeting on Wednesday, March 7 at 6 PM.
- Mr. Vitolo will attend.
- Mr. Vitolo urged members to attend to show support.
- Mr. Vitolo reported that Mr. Ferris had an intriguing idea to slightly reroute and pave a short section of the Muddy River Path parallel to River Road.
- There was more discussion about educating the public about the concept of contraflow lanes.

Next Meeting

- We will meet next on Monday, April 2, 2012, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

Adjournment

- We adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Assignments

- The CIP Sub-Committee will meet to vote on Wednesday, March 7 at 8:15 AM. Ms. Snow will attend.
- Mr. Dempsey will solicit restaurants for the Bike Parade.
- Friend us/like us on Facebook.
- 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!”
- Ms. Snow will contact the City of Boston about the effectiveness of markings or signs to keep cyclists from riding on sidewalks in commercial districts.
- Ms. Snow and Mr. Heineman will finish the green Routes Plan on Saturday, March 10 at 1:15 PM.
- The Emerald Necklace Planning Group is meeting on Wednesday, March 7 at 6 PM. Mr. Vitolo will attend. BAC and other bicyclists are urged to attend to show support.

