

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2012

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Chris Dippel, Tommy Vitolo, John Dempsey

Absent: Cynthia Snow, Mitch Heineman, Don McNamara, Bill Schwartz (Transportation Board Representative), Officer Sullivan (Police liaison)

Also Attending:

Public: Anya Ditkoff, Joseph Ditkoff, Peggy Ueda, Neil Peterson, Rebecca Albrecht, Over,Under representatives Mark Pasnik, Jonathan Hanahan, Spencer Grayson

Handouts: Agenda,

Introductions

The minutes from the May 7, 2012, meeting were not approved because we did not have a quorum.

Comments from a member of the public

- Ms. Anya Ditkoff asked to address the Committee.
- Ms. Ditkoff recounted a situation she had while bicycling on the path around the perimeter of Emerson Garden. As she approached walkers from the back she signaled with her bike bell. The walkers seemed to ignore her, and she had to apply her brakes to avoid hitting them. She wondered if there was a way to get pedestrians to pay attention to bicyclists who signal with their bells. She said the situation was unsafe.
- The Committee discussed with Ms. Ditkoff possible ways (current and future) to get pedestrians to share the path and for cyclists to avoid collisions.

Discussion with representatives of Over,Under of way-finding options

- Mark Pasnik, Jonathan Hanahan, and Spencer Graham spoke about their design firm and local and international projects that they were involved in. They invited Committee members to the opening on Tuesday, June 12 of Let's Talk About Bikes, an exhibit they created for the Boston Society of Architects.
- Basic question: How can Over,Under help Brookline?
- A discussion followed about possible ways to use "way-finding" by print, digital, and signs to encourage more people to bicycle by highlighting more pleasant routes to places people like to go to or need to go to or would go to if the route to and from was pleasant.
- The Committee was asked to think of all the audiences that bicycle/pedestrian way-finding might appeal to (e.g. historical, preservation, seniors, educational, artistic, architectural, etc.) and all the amenities Brookline has to offer in those and other categories. Then, as digital gets better at compatibility, both the audiences and the amenities can be integrated.
- It was mentioned that the Town's Economic Development office was exploring the idea of improvements for visitor way-finding and this office may have helpful information."

Report on Town Meeting actions regarding bicycling -Vitolo

- Article #8 -Town Meeting supported funding of the bike infrastructure improvements – particularly contraflow lanes on Park Street and Dudley Street – planned for FY 2013. (\$75,000) There was one condition that the Park Street contraflow (connector) lane not be striped until after December 31, 2012.
- Article #23 -Town Meeting referred Article #23 to the Transportation Board.

Bike Parade (May 20) -Dempsey -Dempsey

- Mr. Dempsey reported on another successful Bike Parade.
- There was a problem with a gap developing. Fortunately, Officer McNeil turned the second group at Englewood Avenue so they could rejoin the first group. Mr. Dempsey met with the police to discuss how to better manage the parade to avoid gaps.
- There were some problems with barricades and cones being in place on Beacon Street and Carlton Street and “No parking” signs that were not up on Carlton Street. Mr. Dempsey will meet with Mr. Kirrane to discuss how to avoid those problems in the future.
- Mr. Dippel encouraged getting more people involved in the planning and operations and the delegating of tasks for next year.

Enforcement

- Ms. Snow will invite the Bike Patrol officers to the August 6 meeting (Room 111 at Town Hall).
- The discussion will be continued. Other Business

Ciclovia

- Ms. Ueda asked if the Committee had ever discussed the idea of a ciclovia (or Sunday Streets) for Brookline.

July “rolling meeting”

- Mr. Vitolo suggested we use the July meeting time (moved to Monday, July 9) to travel by bike to parts of the Green Routes Plan to get a better feel for the issues on various routes. He will ask Mr. Kirrane to properly notice the meeting. Committee members will make suggestions of sites to visit.

Road surfaces

- In response to questions about dangerous and deteriorated road surfaces, Mr. Vitolo will bring the Pavement Management Plan to the next meeting.

Next Meeting

- We will meet next on Monday, July 9, 2012, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School to do site visits by bicycle.

Adjournment

- We adjourned at 8:49 P.M.

Assignments

- Ms. Snow will invite the Bike Patrol officers to the August 6 meeting (Room 111 at Town Hall).
- Mr. Vitolo will ask Mr. Kirrane to notice the July 9 site visit meeting.
- Mr. Vitolo will bring the Pavement Management Plan to the August 6 meeting.