

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

Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2012

Submitted by John Dempsey

The meeting took place in Town Hall, Room 111 at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Cynthia Snow, Chris Dippel, John Dempsey, Don McNamara, Tommy Vitolo, Mitch Heineman, Officer Sullivan (Police liaison)

Absent:

Also Attending:

Public: Jonathan Margolis

Handouts: Agenda, Proposal: Regulation of Bicycles on Sidewalks of Public Ways, Draft: Police Proposal for Abandoned Bicycles/BrookONline

### **Introductions**

#### **Discussion of bicycling on sidewalks - Snow**

- Mr. Margolis spoke on the issue of bicyclists riding on sidewalks. He pointed to the Massachusetts statute that bicyclists are not to ride on sidewalks in business districts, and that they are only allowed to ride on sidewalks outside of business districts when necessary in the interest of safety (Ch85 Sec11b). He pointed out that no one seems to know what constitutes the boundaries of business districts.
- Mr. Margolis offered a proposal with two major points: 1) make it unlawful for any bicyclist age 14 and older to ride on any public sidewalk unless that sidewalk was marked permitting such use, and 2) The Transportation Board would have the authority to designate sidewalks on which riding of bicycles is permitted.
- A discussion followed. No action was taken.

#### **Discussion of a request from the Moderator's Committee on Public Hearings about a requirement for public hearings by committees making recommendations to Town Meeting on warrant articles - Snow**

- Mr. Vitolo clarified the differences between a "public meeting" (citizens may observe and listen but they are not always allowed to speak or express opinions) and a "public hearing" (citizens are invited to share their views of the issues).
- Members expressed the view that it is in the BAC's best interests to have public hearings, to listen carefully, and to weigh comments thoughtfully.
- The BAC wondered whether the public hearing proposal applied to the Committee because the BAC only advises the Transportation Board.
- The BAC agreed that the Committee, though it supported the idea of public hearings, would seek guidance from Town officials about how to proceed.
- Mr. Vitolo will talk to the head of the Moderator's Committee to seek clarification.

#### **Abandoned Bicycles - Dempsey**

- Mr. Dempsey reported that he has observed and residents have contacted him about abandoned bicycles: What was the procedure or protocol to report them? How long does it take to get a bicycle removed?
- Officer Sullivan reported that the Community Service Division was working with IT to have "reporting abandoned bicycles" added to BrookONline.
- Mr. Vitolo pointed out that Cambridge has made improvements in their notifications to owners of abandoned bikes.
- Officer Sullivan will relay the Cambridge information to Lt. Harrington.

### **Discussion of plans for the coming year - Snow**

- PARKing Day, Friday, September 21. One idea is to have bike parking (DPW move a bike rack into the parking space) for one day to demonstrate that bike parking is needed, will be used, and is good for business.
- Museum of Transportation “Green Day,” Sunday, October 21. Because of the poor attendance at last year’s Green Day, members did not want to commit to a table this year. To be discussed later.
- Budget recommendations for FY 14
  - Mr. Vitolo proposed doing site visits to specific sites in the Green Routes Plan.
  - Mr. Vitolo will schedule and notice a Monday in August for site visits.
  - Members will review the Green Routes Plan and make suggestions for site visits and the budget.
- Suggestions of areas to look at:
  - Middlesex Rd/Spooner Rd.
  - Netherlands Rd.
  - Longwood Ave. between Harvard St and Sewall Ave.
  - Beacon Street gaps (e.g. Park St. to Harvard St.)
- Members will let Mr. Vitolo know of their availability on Monday, August 13, or 20, or 27.

### **Other Business**

#### **Enforcement**

- There was a discussion about enforcement efforts in Coolidge Corner and Longwood Avenue/Kent Street – whether, because of their high visibility, bicyclists were being targeted.
- Officer Sullivan reported that the \$50 fine for obstructing a bike lane was not listed on the citations – possibly because of a misunderstanding or possibly because they have not printed new citations. Officers are ticketing for double parking.
- Officer Sullivan will invite two Bike Patrol officers to the September 10 meeting at Devotion School Library for a “meet and greet.”

#### **Hubway Bike Share**

- Ribbon cutting outside Town Hall on Wednesday, August 8 at 9 AM.
- Ms. Snow will attend.

#### **Next Meeting**

- We will try to do a site visit ride on Monday, August 13, or 20, or 27.
- We will meet next on Monday, September 10, 2012, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

#### **Adjournment**

- We adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

#### **Assignments**

- Mr. Vitolo will talk to the head of the Moderator’s Committee to seek clarification.
- Officer Sullivan will relay the Cambridge information to Lt. Harrington.
- Members will review the Green Routes Plan and make suggestions for site visits and the budget.
- Members will let Mr. Vitolo know of their availability on Monday, August 13, or 20, or 27.
- Mr. Vitolo will notice a mid to late August site visit meeting.
- Officer Sullivan will invite two Bike Patrol officers to the September 10 meeting at Devotion School Library for a “meet and greet.”
- Mr. Vitolo will bring the Pavement Management Plan to the August 6 meeting.