

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for December 3rd, 2012

Submitted by Don McNamara

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

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

Absent: Mitch Heineman

Also Attending:

Public: John Bowman

Handouts: Agenda

Introductions

Discussion and Approval of Minutes

- The meeting minutes from the November Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting were approved.

Discussion of Bicycle Parade

- Mr. Dempsey will present alternative routes to representatives of the Police department. Possible alternatives will include:
 - Washington Street south to Brookline Village
 - Tour of National Historic Sites
 - Tour of town bicycle improvement sites
- Mr. Bowman raised the question of if the parade route could help encourage biking to school.

Discussion of Draft of Enforcement Memo

- Ms. Snow discussed issues raised to her during a meeting of the Brookline Council on Aging.
- The committee discussed enforcement of road rules and regulations.
- It was the sense of the committee that in-person meetings with the police involved in traffic rule enforcement, at times convenient to them (e.g., during the day), may be a better alternative to submitting a memo to the Transportation Board. Mr. Dippel offered to draft talking points to be used in the possible meetings.

Discussion of Updates to Green Route Plan

- The committee discussed removing Warren Street from the plan as a bike route.
- The committee discussed adding to the plan improvements of the crossing at Clinton Street and Chestnut Hill Road.
- Mr. Bowman suggested adding a section to the Green Routes plan on lowering speed limits to improve safety.

Discussion of Emerald Necklace Improvements

- The committee discussed the Selectmen's Meeting that reviewed the Emerald Necklace crossing improvement plan, including the Route 9 crossing.

Discussion of Bicycling and Health

- The committee discussed the benefits of bicycling and if there was any coordination we could do with the Health Department.

Discussion of Climate Week

- Ms. Snow reviewed what our plans are for Climate Week in Brookline.
- The committee discussed using a television or projector to show movies of the Brookline Bicycle Parade as well as movies from Street Films.
- Mr. Vitolo suggested we might be able to use the television installed in the lobby of Town Hall.
- Mr. Dempsey said that Livable Streets was receptive to being a co-sponsor.

Discussion of Beacon Street Plans as Drafted by the Transportation Division

- The committee discussed the alternative plans for the intersection of Beacon Street and Centre Street. It was agreed that the plan with the continuous bike lane, option B, was preferred. It was suggested that the possibility of a bike box be explored to facilitate left turns by cyclists from Beacon to Centre Street.
- Mr. Vitolo raised the idea of using a smaller right hand lane with sharrows to discourage drivers from trying to squeeze past bicyclists on sections of the inbound side.
- The committee agreed that the drafted plans for Beacon Street westbound from Marion to Washington Street would require significant study to identify any potential traffic impact.
- Ms. Snow will draft a letter to the Transportation Division and Transportation Board about the plans.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Assignments

- Mr. Dempsey will meet with representatives from the Police Department to review proposed Bicycle Parade alternatives.
- Mr. Bowman will draft a section to be added to the Green Routes Plan on lower speed limits.
- Ms. Snow will write a letter to the Transportation Board and Department of Transportation regarding the drafted plans for Beacon Street bicycle improvements.