

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

Meeting minutes for January 7, 2013

Submitted by Cynthia Snow

The meeting took place in the Devotion School Library and started at 7:00 PM.

Present: Cynthia Snow, Tommy Vitolo

Absent: John Dempsey, Chris Dippel, Mitch Heineman, Don McNamara, Officer Sullivan (police liaison)

Also Attending:

Public: John Bowman, Frank Caro, Cecelia Cobb, Ruth Nemzoff, Mike Sanders

Handouts: agenda

### **Introductions**

**Minutes:** There was no quorum, so December minutes will be reviewed in February

**Bike Parade:** Mr. Dempsey reported (in abstentia) that Brookline Bank has committed \$1,000 for the 2013 Bike Parade

### **Discussion of Bicycles on Sidewalks and Other Enforcement**

**Issues:** Mr. Caro, a member of Brookline Community Aging Network and chair of its Livable Community Advocacy Committee, relayed the committee's concerns regarding bicycles on sidewalks. Many pedestrians feel endangered by cyclists on sidewalks. Mr. Caro noted that the police believe that bicycles fall under the definition of "vehicles" and are therefore not allowed on sidewalks. However, state law (GL Chapter 85, Section 11B) states, "bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks outside business districts when necessary in the interest of safety, unless otherwise directed by local ordinance. A person operating a bicycle on the sidewalk shall yield the right of way to pedestrians and give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any pedestrian." Town counsel has asked the Transportation Board to take up this issue, and they discussed it at their December meeting under new business, but have not taken any formal position at this point.

There was an extended discussion about the lack of adequate bicycle infrastructure to make cycling on the streets safe, the hazards created by inconsiderate cyclists on sidewalks, the difficulty in creating

the best and safest cycle tracks separate from traffic on many local streets, and the difficulty of clearly delineating what is and is not a “business district.”

It was agreed that it would be useful to have written information on the etiquette of cycling on sidewalks, and Ms. Snow will prepare and circulate a draft and put it on the BAC agenda for February.

**Emerald Necklace Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossings:** Mr. Vitolo summarized the Draft Report of the Committee on Emerald Necklace Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossings. The Selectmen asked for input from the Transportation Board, which heard a report from two members who met for four hours with the traffic consultant to the Emerald Necklace Committee. After discussing the report and the summary of the members’ meeting with the traffic consultant, the Transportation Board voted to notify the Selectmen of their support for the recommendations—especially for the Route 9 crossing, which is the most immediate project expected to move forward. The Board noted that the report includes rough schematics and that all projects will come before them again for consideration as designs are further developed.

**Other Agenda Items** were postponed to a later meeting when we have a quorum.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. Next meeting will be February 4.