

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for April 1st, 2013

Submitted by Don McNamara

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

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

Also Attending: Police Bicycle Patrol Officer

Public: Carol Amick, Robert Amick, Robert Shulman, P Tonissi, and Cecelia Cobb

Handouts: Agenda, bike theft and accident information from Brookline Police Department

Introductions

Public Hearing on Lee and Clyde Streets, Recommendation to the Transportation Board

- Ms. Snow outlined the rules for the public meeting and described the plan to be discussed on Lee and Clyde Streets.
- Mr Tonissi expressed concern that Lee Street is busy and expressed a general concern for bicycling on roads with high traffic volume. He expressed concern over the loss of parking on Lee Street.
- Ms. Amick expressed concern about the safety of the traffic circle on Lee Street and Warren Street. She worried that adding bicycle lanes could be more dangerous.
- Mr. Amick asked for clarification on parking on Lee and Clyde Streets and any impact bike lanes would present. He also asked for clarification of the bicycle pavement markings.
- Mr. Shulman expressed concern over the current condition of the pavement. He stated that the line of sight is an issue when cars are parked on Clyde Street near the intersection with Country Road and said that he does not use Lee and Clyde Streets for bicycling because of the condition of the road surface and the speed of the automobile traffic. He uses Goddard instead to commute to downtown Boston.
- Ms. Cobb stated that Lee and Clyde Streets form the primary connector for bicyclists in South Brookline to the High School and other areas in North Brookline and that it is unavoidable.
- Ms. Cobb stated Goddard is unsafe for bicyclists due to road width and sight line issues.
- Ms. Cobb said that she is excited to see bicycle lanes on Lee and Clyde Streets.
- Ms. Snow reviewed an email sent by Amie Lindenboim that stated that Lee and Clyde Streets are her route to bike from her home to Larz Anderson Park and that she would like to see bicycle accommodations so that she would feel safe biking the route with her young child in a trailer.
- Mr. Tonissi asked for clarification on some traffic laws and on how bike lanes would work in a traffic circle.
- Mr. Amick stated that this plan for bike lanes is preferable to the greenway plan presented by Northeastern University students previously.

Committee Discussion and Vote on Lee and Clyde Streets Recommendation to the Transportation Board

After discussion among committee members it was unanimously voted to approve a recommendation to the Transportation Board:

- Make continuous bike accommodations on Lee and Clyde Streets from Route 9 to Newton Street.
- Use bike lanes where possible, use a shoulder where the width does not allow a full bike lane and add no parking signs where there is no formal bike lane.
- Attention should be given to sewer grates to ensure they are bicycle safe.
- Use green bike lane pavement coloring at the Lee-Warren intersection to clarify traffic patterns around the traffic island.
- Make the left traffic lane wider than the right lane where possible to encourage drivers to use the lane farther from cyclists in the bike lane.

- Study the feasibility of changing the right turn from Clyde to Newton (southbound) to allow for a bike lane around the corner.

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes for February 2013 and March 2013.

Discussion of Bicycle Parade

- Mr. Dempsey gave an update on the Bicycle Parade.
 - The poster and post card are almost done.
 - The parade start is settled for 1PM, with activities in Amory Park set for 12:30 to 3.
- Mr. Vitolo has identified the problem with the web site and should have it resolved soon.
- Ms. Cobb volunteered to help with the social publicity for the parade.

Discussion of Next Year's CIP Funding

- Mr. Vitolo asked that we get information on the traffic light controllers for the intersection of Washington/Station and the intersection of Longwood/Chapel.
- Mr. Decker suggested we examine Clyde Street and Newton Street.
- Mr. Vitolo suggested we include some bicycle parking accommodations.
- Ms. Snow will seek information and input from the Transportation Department, and the discussion will continue at our next meeting.

Discussion of Bicycle Regulations

- The committee discussed the proposed draft regulations. Some issues were identified.
- Ms. Snow will write up the suggested changes, but the committee expressed the desire to review them again at the next meeting before final Transportation Board consideration.

Other Business

- Ms. Snow stated that the Boston Marathon and Brookline Police have asked us to send a message to our mailing list to inform bicyclists of the timing of closing the marathon course to bicyclists; she will draft a message.
- Ms. Snow asked that we review the committee mailing list and create a second list for former members and people who frequent the meetings but are not part of the committee.
- Ms. Snow noted that she will be away at the time of the June meeting and asked that someone volunteer to chair that meeting.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 6th.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Assignments

- Mr. Vitolo will get the website problems resolved.
- Ms. Snow will write up the Lee and Clyde Streets recommendation for the Transportation Board.
- Ms. Snow will write up the suggested changes to the Bicycle Regulations for the Transportation Board.
- Ms. Snow will seek information to assist in our consideration of CIP recommendations for FY 15.
- Ms. Cobb will aid in the social marketing for the Bicycle Parade.