

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2013

Submitted by Chris Dippel

The meeting took place in Room 310, Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Cynthia Snow, Bryan Decker, Officer Mark Trahon, John Dempsey, Chris Dippel, Tommy Vitolo

Not Present: Don McNamara, members of the public

Handouts: Agenda, Possible Additions to Green Routes Plan

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- The committee reviewed and approved the minutes for August 2013.

Election of Chairperson and Secretary for 2013-14

- Ms. Snow was nominated for chair and elected unanimously.
- It was agreed that secretarial responsibilities would be rotated among committee members.

Annual Brookline Bike Counts

- The committee discussed placement of counters to cover previously counted intersections plus a new one at Dudley and Lee. Ms. Snow will distribute the counting sheets before counts begin the weeks of September 16 and 23.

Advice on Cypress Street Accommodations

- The committee discussed the options for bicycle accommodations on Cypress Street north of Route 9 provided by Mr. Kirrane and recommended adoption of the option of a bike lane on the south bound lane as permitted by road width and sharrows on the north bound lane. The committee thought the proposed north bound lane between Route 9 and Tappan may place cyclists too close to car doors, especially those of parents using the day care center.
- Ms. Snow will forward the recommendations to Mr. Kirrane.

Enforcement and Police Report

- The committee suggested that police warnings for cyclist and motorist violations during the morning (high school) rush hour at the intersection of Cypress and Tappan Streets would be useful.
- Mr. Vitolo noted that, in a recent bicycle traffic stop, an officer required the cyclist provide his telephone number, which is not required by state law. The officer subsequently upgraded his warning to a \$20 ticket. Officer Trahon said individual officers were still learning the process and all officers will be provided with written guidance soon.

Application to League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community Status

- Ms. Snow reported the application was still in progress.
- Mr. Decker noted he had been in contact with a state official who is responsible for promoting the Safe Routes to School program and he intends to get more information on Brookline's participation.

Green Routes Plan Additions

- The additions proposed by Ms. Snow were discussed with the following outcome:

- Completed work will be added.
- Babcock (if the street was made smooth by removal or paving of concrete section), Brookline Ave., Dean from Clark to Beacon, and Eliot to be added as higher priority.
- Pleasant and Corey to be added as “connector routes” at present, except add bike lane if width permits southbound in the last block before Beacon.
- A general statement about the value and need to continue accommodations through intersections will be added. Such accommodations may be continuation of a bike lane and addition of bike boxes, dotted lines, or green lanes.
- A statement about supporting merchants to request bike corral parking in front of their stores will be added as well as encouraging the town to install sidewalk hoops in areas where parking is scarce.

Other Business

- Ms. Snow noted that the town intended to repave the south bound lane of Lee this year and that the work on the Gateway East project was approved for FY 15 (a year earlier than originally expected).
- Ms. Snow mentioned that Cambridge or Boston includes a bike safety message on its car excise bills, and we could recommend Brookline do the same.
- The committee discussed participation in Brookline Day and Climate Week and decided against both.
- Mr. Dempsey reported on a meeting with a Green Street resident who wants to have cyclists licensed.

Next Meeting

- Our next meeting will be Monday, October 7, in Room 310, Town Hall.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.