

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2014

Submitted by Chris Dippel

The meeting took place in the Town Hall Room 408 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Thomas Vitolo

Public: John Bowman, Mitch Heineman

Handouts: agenda, new Green Routes Bicycle Network map distributed by Mr. Heineman, draft memorandum on transportation around schools distributed by Mr. Bowman

Introductions

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- The committee reviewed and voted to approve the minutes from the December 2013 meeting.

Pedestrian Counts in Coolidge Corner

- Ms. Kara Brewton, town economic development director, spoke about a plan to conduct a pedestrian count in the Coolidge Corner area to assess possible reasons for a decline in business activity there. The count is planned for Wednesday, January 22, from 4 to 6 PM at about 12 locations using criteria provided by the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization. She is seeking volunteers to participate and requested that the BAC help publicize the need. The committee agreed to help by posting the request on the BAC website and sending an email to the general email list.

2014 Bike Parade Update

- Mr. Dempsey gave an update on preparations for the May 2014 bike parade.
- The Parade is definitely scheduled for May 18, 2013.
- The activities will start at 12 PM to decrease the potential for interference with a memorial service at Hall Pond now scheduled for 3:00.
- Participating organizations include Landry's bike shop.

Green Routes Network Plan

- Chairwoman Snow requested any additional revisions to the plan, and Mr. Dempsey offered a few.
- The Committee approved the revised Plan for submission to the Transportation Board.
- Mr. Heineman distributed a revision to the Network map that was roundly praised by the Committee. The map will be added to the BAC website and may be displayed at Town Hall on a monitor during Climate Week.

People for Bikes

- Chairwoman Snow described this program which provides grants up to \$10,000 for bicycle infrastructure, including planning. The next review of applications is in June and applicants with matching funds are preferred.
- The Committee discussed potential projects: cycling accommodations for Beacon Street

outbound past Summit Street, a demonstration cycle-track, e.g., on Washington near Brookline Village, bike parking at the high school.

Bicycle Safety Education

- Mr. Decker gave an update on efforts to introduce the Safe Routes to School program at the Driscoll School. The person responsible for this state-sponsored program has proposed the dates of April 8 or 10 for the pedestrian class (grades 2 and 3) and April 30 or May 1 for the bicycle class (grades 4-5). Confirmation is pending. Mr. Decker will contact Prentice Pilot, the police school safety officer, regarding any plans for town-sponsored classes.
- Ms. Snow noted that Ms. Toomey has scheduled her bicycle safety education class for adults through the Brookline Adult Education program in May and that several committee members plan to attend to answer questions about biking in Brookline.

Transportation around Schools

- Mr. Bowman presented a draft memo on the opportunity for transportation improvements, especially access for pedestrians and bicyclists, to be addressed during the planning of expansion of the town school system.
- He wrote the memo in response to an inquiry he had made to Betsy DeWitt, chair of the Devotion School Building Committee, who requested it. In it, he presents rationales and potential actions “to encourage coordinated transportation-related actions to promote bicycling and walking to and from schools.”
- Members of the Committee expressed support of the memo, suggested it be sent to Ms. DeWitt with a copy to Mr. Safer, chair of the Transportation Board, and offered to support his proposals if/when the proposed actions were discussed by the Board.
- Ms. Snow also recommended that Mr. Bowman submit a guest column based on the memo for publication in the Tab.

Website

- Mr. McNamara reported that the website has been updated and can be used for registering for the Parade. The Committee expressed its thanks to him and Mr. Vitolo.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be Monday, February 3.