

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for February 3, 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, Thomas Vitolo

Absent: none

Public: John Bowman, Neil Wishinsky, Joe Viola, Kate Toomey

Handouts: agenda

Introductions

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- The committee reviewed and voted to approve the minutes from the January 2014 meeting.

Hubway Update and Future Plans

- Mr. Wishinsky is a town resident, selectman, Hubway user, and representative of the Town in Hubway matters. He reported that Boston had recently led an effort to have the Hubway system management contract re-bid and that the current provider, Alta Bicycles, had won the award under new terms that may result in up to a 30% decrease in operating costs. He also noted that the system equipment provider, PBSC, a Canadian company, was in bankruptcy which may or may not be resolved in 8 weeks. He further noted that, although the bankruptcy may affect the availability of equipment, he asked for BAC comment on locations for new Hubway stations and on ways to insure the Town's continued participation.
- Several members commented and the locations mentioned were: the High School (destinations include the Tappen complex and Brookline Hills T stop), Aspinwall/Harvard (midway between existing stations), Minot Rose Garden (lots of potential users, e.g., BU students), Cleveland Circle (extends Beacon St. coverage), Beacon/Carleton (same). Also noted was the idea to encourage Boston to place stations near the common border and to relocate the Town stations as needed.
- Mr. Wishinsky reported that the system currently incurs a \$20-30K annual deficit for the Town, now being covered by grants, and asked for ideas to make the system self-sustaining. Several ideas were discussed: sponsorships of bikes and stations; increasing ridership with Town promotion and Alta presence at Town events and offering discounts; and increasing the visibility of stations.
- Mr. Vitolo mentioned a site that maps real-time Hubway use: <http://bikes.oobrien/?city=boston>.

2014 Bike Parade Update

- Mr. Dempsey gave an update on preparations for the parade scheduled for May 18.
- Captain Gropman, Town police, requested the parade start at 1:05 PM.
- Sponsoring organizations are Brookline Bank and likely Chobee Hoy Realty. Participating organizations include Landry's bike shop, Urban Adventours, and Alta.

- Mr. Dempsey offered the idea of including T-shirts to give away or for sale. Kate Toomey offered to look into sponsors and costs.
- Approval of the parade by the Transportation Board is still pending but expected at their next meeting.

Green Routes Network Plan

- Chairwoman Snow reported that the plan and its map were well-received by the Transportation Board and that Josh Safer, chair, had suggested the next version of the plan address signage and South Brookline accommodations.
- Ms. Snow attended a neighborhood meeting on the pending changes to Fisher and Clinton Avenues as part of the Town's plans to convert the Fisher Hill reservoir to a park. Drawings of the changes have been prepared by Transportation staff and were distributed before the meeting. The attendees discussed the following: the proposed pedestrian "bump-outs," while improving pedestrian safety, may decrease bicycling safety, and may or may not be needed on a low-volume and –speed road like Fisher; stanchions could replace the bump-outs; space was not sufficient for a bike lane and/or cycle track; and one bump-out (near Channing) did not seem to have a purpose.

Bicycle Safety Education

- Mr. Decker gave an update on efforts to introduce the Safe Routes to School program at the Driscoll School. Confirmation by the state is pending.

Transportation around Schools

- Mr. Bowman reported that he had sent his memo on the opportunity for transportation improvements, especially access for pedestrians and bicyclists, during the planning of expansion of the town school system to Betsy DeWitt, chair of the Devotion School Building Committee, and Josh Safer, chair of the Transportation Board. It was well-received and will be shared with the Building Committee and the School Committee, and he plans to attend the next meeting of the former. Mr. Bowman also submitted a guest column based on the memo for publication in the Tab.

Bicycle Safety Program

- Ms. Toomey spoke about the scheduled bicycle safety education class for adults through the Brookline Adult Education program on May 8. She plans to have items (ankle reflectors, bells) on hand from the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition and offered to request similar items for distribution at the Bike Parade. Ms. Snow accepted the offer, and Ms. Toomey will send information to Mr. Dempsey.
- Ms. Snow offered to advertise the class through the BAC email list around April 1.
- Mr. Vitolo noted that, if three or more BAC members attend, a meeting notice is needed.

Other Business

- Ms. Snow noted that she will ask Officer Trahon for 2013 incident data.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be Monday, March 3.