

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

Meeting Minutes for March 3, 2014

Submitted by Chris Dippel

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, John Dempsey, Chris Dippel, Don McNamara, Thomas Vitolo

Absent: Bryan Decker

Public: John Bowman, Neil Gordon, Seth Rubin, Henry Winkelman, Matt Weiss, Frank Caro, Nick Schmidt, Kate Toomey

Handouts: agenda

### **Introductions**

#### **Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

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

#### **Cooperation for Pedestrian and Cyclist Enhancements, Safety, and Access**

- Mr. Rubin began the discussion with a review of a presentation he had seen on designing urban landscapes to enhance non-motorized movement and overall quality of life, also known as “complete streets” or “walkable cities” design. Both BAC members and public attendees contributed and discussed examples of such design, including:
  - pedestrian malls
  - semi-raised bike tracks
  - conversion of car to bike parking
  - benches
  - off street car parking
  - temporary street closure to cars/opening to others
  - wider sidewalks.
- The attendees were in general agreement that cooperation among the groups and committees in Town would help get the responsible planners to include complete streets design and the question was how to do so. Several ideas were put forward:
  - encourage the Transportation Board to study what is needed to implement such designs (Mr. Vitolo)
  - advocate for a separate Town board to address such design (Mr. Caro), but one not tied to climate change (Mr. Vitolo)
  - form a pedestrian advisory committee ((Mr. Gordon)
  - form a special district, e.g., north of Beacon Street, for pedestrian enhancement (Mr. Caro)
  - hold a meeting with all parties to draft a policy using outside experts (Mr. Caro)
  - start with a draft statement (Mr. Weiss)
  - try small projects and see what works and then broaden.
- The attendees agreed this item should be discussed at future meetings.

#### **2014 Bike Parade Update**

- Mr. Dempsey gave an update on preparations for the parade scheduled for May 18.
- Items will be given away, possibly T-shirts and bells.
- Sponsoring organizations will include Chobee Hoy Realty.

- New ideas were suggested: a demonstration cycle track (Mr. Schmidt), Hubway sign-up through the registration site (Mr. Vitolo), and a “bike party” ride the night before starting at the Teen Center (Mr. Dempsey)

#### **League of American Cyclists Application**

- Progress is being made and Ms. Snow will ask for help in drafting sections when needed.
- Submission is planned for July.

#### **Capital Projects Planning**

- At a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee, the Committee approved the bicycle-related items for implementation in FY 2015, such as accommodations on Cypress and School Streets

#### **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.

#### **Green Routes Plan**

- Ms. Snow noted a priority item is improving safety on Beacon Street out bound past Summit Ave. and the attendees discussed how to prioritize recommendations. Mr. Schmidt offered to utilize a method developed by Peter Furth using four criteria. He would need data from the Town to do so. The members agreed to his proposal.
- Ms. Snow suggested that the BAC get the Town planning director involved.

#### **Other Business**

- Ms. Snow noted that she will ask Officer Trahon for more details on the 2013 incident data.
- Ms. Snow noted that BAC comments on Fisher Hill Avenue were presented to the Transportation Board.
- Mr. Bowman noted the upcoming meeting on school site planning on Friday, March 7, 9 AM, and urged participation.
- Ms. Toomey reported on the plans for the bicycle safety course: one hour would be for instruction and an half hour for BAC members to answer questions.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be Monday, April 7.