

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for June 4, 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, and Thomas Vitolo

Public: Seth Rubin, Nick Schmidt, Rich Nangle, Mark Tedrow

Handouts: agenda

Introductions

- The committee members introduced themselves as did members of the public (Rich is a precinct 15 town meeting member living on Hammond Street and Mark is a resident of Boston interested in the Gateway East project).

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- The minutes of the April meeting were approved and the notes from May were accepted.

Bike Parade Update

- Mr. Dempsey reported that the parade was a huge success with 50 riders participating in the Cottage Farm route and 500 in the Beacon Street Route. He noted that all participants (vendors, organized groups, police, town representatives, and others) were happy with the event and thanked each of the committee members and many volunteers for the roles they played. He also noted the swag distribution (bells and tee-shirts) was well-received and that the Brookline Interactive Group will prepare a video on the event for our use.

Website and Social Media

- Mr. McNamara reported that Facebook is now charging groups for contacting “friends” and suggested we direct them to sign up for the BAC email list which has about 900 names now. He also recommended refreshing our website and the committee agreed.
- The committee discussed distributing the MassDOT South Station area survey and decided against it since it is not directly related to Brookline cycling.

Bicycle Accommodation Projects

- Ms. Snow reported that the Cypress/School accommodations were in the FY2015 budget approved by Town Meeting.
- The Transportation staff received our comments on the Sumner Road repaving project (including sharrows), and a NACTO shared through bike lane/vehicle right turn lane will be used at the intersection with Route 9.
- The Transportation Board approved staff-revised plans for a bike lane on Aspinwall (from Harvard to St. Paul, with a single vehicle lane plus bike lane with a bike box for cyclists to wait for a safe left turn from Aspinwall to St. Paul. There will be a bike lane northbound on St. Paul from Aspinwall to Beacon with a bike box at the intersection with St. Paul. There will be sharrows northbound on St. Paul.
- Ms. Snow and Mr. Vitolo reported that the Gateway East project had not reached final design stages, that public hearings will be held before then, and that Town Meeting had committed \$2.1 million to the project. The committee also discussed its recommendation of adding cycle tracks to Washington Street (on Route 9), although consultants on the project have suggested that there

is not enough room for cycle tracks. Ms. Snow noted that Mr. Viola, of the Town planning department, had offered to attend the next BAC meeting, and the committee agreed to accept his offer and requested that the BAC get any available plans in advance.

League of American Cyclists Application

- Ms. Snow reported that she was close to completing her sections and will be forwarding the draft to the staff of the Transportation Board for input.

Green Routes Bicycle Plan Update

- The committee discussed possible updates and additions; among the ideas suggested:
 - Additional bike parking.
 - Placement of “runnels” next to public stairs to assist cyclists
 - Study of possible accommodations on Hammond Street and other parts of south Brookline
 - Ms. Snow requested the committee make suggestions and will keep this on the agenda for discussion into the fall.

Follow Up and Other Business

- Urban Cycling Class: Mr. Decker and Mr. Dempsey reported that Ms. Toomey’s presentation was well done and informative but there was only one other participant. The committee discussed ways to leverage the class, like giving it at the High School or Teen Center or suggesting that Continuing Education partner with Urban Adventours to provide on-bike training.
- Parking: Mr. Vitolo noted that a town meeting member had asked about putting a bike corral in Coolidge Corner but that other, easier options like parking meter hoops could be and should be done first. He also noted that there has not been an inventory of bike parking in ten years. Mr. Schmidt also noted that parking was needed in front of Trader Joe’s market and expressed an interest in pursuing this topic. It was noted that bike parking was a matter for the DPW.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be Monday, July 7, at 7 PM in Town Hall, Room 408.