

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for November 4, 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, and Don McNamara; absent: Bryan Decker, Sgt. Mark Trahon, Thomas Vitolo

Public: Nick Schmidt, Phil Bowman, Irv Kurki, Alex Nenopoulos

Handouts: agenda, revised information card draft, Brookline Police August to October 2014 Bike Crash Summary

Introductions

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

FY2016 CIP Projects

- Larz Anderson Park Access: Ms. Snow reported on her observations made during a site visit to the intersection of Goddard Ave. and Newton Street and noted that a pedestrian or cyclist attempting to cross Newton to Goddard will not be able to see cars approaching from the left due to the curve of the roads and trees. The committee agreed and now is recommending that a crosswalk not be placed at this point. The committee discussed these options:
 - Installation of a crosswalk with a user-activated stop signal;
 - Installation of a median island on Newton Street to provide a “refuge” for cyclists or pedestrians crossing Newton west of Goddard Circle.
- Bicycle Racks: Mr. Schmidt asked about the placement of a bicycle rack by a private party where the bicycles may be partly on public property. Ms. Snow mentioned that the head of the town Chamber of Commerce had inquired about business sponsorship of racks and noted that sponsorship was welcomed by the town but explicit advertising on the racks was not allowed.

2015 Green Routes Plan Update

The committee discussed inclusion of the following projects in the next Plan:

- South Brookline accommodations, including improving the safety of the Newton to Clyde left turn, adding bike lanes/sharrows to Newton west of Clyde, improving the right turn where Newton turns, adding lanes on Newton to the Horace James Circle and on West Roxbury Parkway, adding Share the Road signs, and enforcement of no parking in the Putterham Circle rotary.
- Gateway East accommodations, including protected bike lanes on Pearl Street, back-in parking, and bike parking in the new garage [note that the Children’s Hospital October presentation shows parking on the structure’s first floor]. Mr. Dippel offered to review the presentation and write up potential accommodation recommendations.
- Allston connector along Brookline’s western border, including possible accommodations on Babcock Street.
- Addition of a green lane crossing Dummer to the Exeter contraflow lane.
- All officers (not just bicycle patrol officers) should receive training specific to enforcement of laws related to cycling on a regular basis.

Information Card

- The committee suggested changing the greeting to be more inclusive of other road users, addition of a QR code, and printing it on a business-card-sized card. Mr. Dempsey will work further on the proposed text.

Bicycle League Application

- Ms. Snow reported that she had received input from the Police Department and will receive input from the Transportation Department by Friday; she hopes to complete a draft by the end of the month for review by the Committee, the Transportation Department and Board and others.

Follow Up

- Beacon Street outbound project: Ms. Snow noted that the Town will conduct another study in the next few weeks.
- Gateway East planning charettes: Ms. Snow noted these were still in the works.

Other Business

- Ms. Snow mentioned her attendance at the Mass-DOT-sponsored “Moving Together” Conference on October 30. [The conference link is <http://www.movingtogetherma.org/> where more information is available.]
- Mr. Dempsey recommended and the committee agreed to use the BAC email list to advertise a lecture sponsored by the Brookline Historical Society by Lorenz Finison on his book on Boston’s cycling history on Sunday, November 23 (see <http://www.brooklinehistoricalsociety.org/>). The committee discussed adding other items to the email , e.g., a link to a video of the Bicycle Parade.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be Monday, December 1st.