

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2015

Submitted by Chris Dippel

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, John Dempsey, Don McNamara, Chris Dippel, Bryan Decker, and Officer Kevin Sullivan

Absent: Thomas Vitolo

Public: John Bowman, Phil Bowman, Nick Schmidt, Nathaniel Fink, Mitch Heineman, David Kroop, and a person wishing to remain anonymous

Handouts: agenda.

Introductions

- The BAC members and attendees introduced themselves except for the person wishing to remain anonymous.

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- The committee approved the April meeting minutes.

Beacon St. Accommodations Study

- Mr. Fink, a graduate student at Tufts University, presented his project that studied possible accommodations for Beacon Street. Its aims included:
 - “8-80” age use (he noted that Brookline’s current bicycle mode share is 4.4%),
 - utilizing existing street cross sections (no street enlargement or loss of parking), and
 - increase in separation of bicycles and motor vehicles.
- He noted several places where buffered or separated bike lanes could be used and where turning boxes or marked lanes may improve safety at intersections. His presentation is available at: <http://brooklinebikes.org/files/BeaconStreetPresentation2015.pdf>

Bike Parade

- Mr. Dempsey reported progress and that he needed additional volunteers for marshals and will contact Casey Hackett about CERT volunteers. He also needs a lead vehicle for the Cottage Farm route. He said that vendors include a food truck, Boston Cyclists’ Union, Bikes not Bombs (who need a table), Hubway, and Lumus Helmets.

Bicycle Friendly City Application

- Ms. Snow reported progress and Mr. Dippel and Mr. Fink offered to help with answers to questions 108-111.

Accident Data

- Mr. John Bowman described his analysis of the Police Department’s two-year vehicle/bicycle accident data and noted that of the 38 accidents where a party required transport to a hospital, 25 of the “at fault” parties were not cited (issued a ticket). Officer Sullivan noted that officers report all incidents but do not always write a citation which may be either a warning or a fine, both of which have a negative effect a driver’s insurance status, because they find that conditions did not warrant a citation or were not aware of the “citability” of dooring (when a person exiting a vehicle hits opens a door in a cyclist’s path). Members and attendees discussed improving public awareness of accidents and consequences and improving officer awareness of incidents warranting citation.

Follow Up Items

- Ms. Snow reported the following:
 - Beacon Street Hill Accommodation- the next BAC meeting will include a public hearing on this topic.
 - FY 2016 CIP- the bicycle-related items have been approved by the committees that have reviewed them.
 - DCR Road Improvement- Hammond Pond Parkway north of Route 9 will be paved and adding bicycle lanes is possible.
 - Gateway East- the town has received a \$1 million grant to improve the crossing of the Jamaica Way Bike Path at Boylston. The next Gateway hearing is Wednesday, May 13, 7 PM, Town Hall.
 - Bicycle Facilities Map- is in progress.
 - BAC Website- has been updated.

No Parking in Bike Lane Enforcement

- Ms. Snow asked Officer Sullivan for data on this enforcement and he said that he will look into it, noting that some officers may still be writing double parking tickets (\$25) rather than parking-in-lane tickets (\$50). Mr. Dippel noted that enforcement of no parking is needed where posted on a section of Dudley Street (south of the Brookline Reservoir) to ensure safe use of the contraflow lane. Ms. Snow noted the BAC's concern about this point when the lane was proposed.

July Meeting

- Ms. Snow noted that she will not be able to attend so another chair is needed.

BAC Member Opening

- Mr. Dippel noted that he will not seek reappointment for his term ending at the end of August and will not be able to attend the August meeting. Mr. Dempsey moved to recommend Kristin Schreiber to the Transportation Board to fill his position and the members voted affirmatively.

Paving Projects

- Ms. Snow provided comments from the Transportation Department staff on the BAC's recommendations for lanes on Greenough and Babcock: it seems there is insufficient room on both for protected bike lanes without giving up parking, but the staff will prepare preliminary plans for the BAC's review prior to the Transportation Board's June meeting. Mr. Kroop noted that speed enforcement and more crosswalks are needed on Babcock. Mr. Schmidt noted that alternating parking from one side of the street to the other is used in similar situations in Cambridge to slow traffic in residential areas.

Other Business

- Mr. Dempsey noted that the Boston Bicycle party/ride will be held next Friday starting in Copley Square and going 8 miles and without police escort. More information is at <http://bostonbikeparty.com/category/rides/>. He also reported that he counted more than 1000 riders in the Midnight Marathon Route ride.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the BAC will be Monday, June 1, 2015.