

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2015

Submitted by John Dempsey

The meeting took place in the Town Hall Room 410 at 7:00 PM.

Present: Cynthia Snow, Bryan Decker, John Dempsey, Kristin Schreiber, Thomas Vitolo, and Sgt Brian Sutherland

Absent: Don McNamara, Nathaniel Fink

Public: Henry Winkleman, David-Marc Goldstein, John Harris, Mitch Heineman, John Siemiatowski

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from June 6, 2015,

Introductions

Sgt Sutherland, Bicycle Unit Supervisor, will be the Police liaison for the BAC.

Minutes

The June 1, 2015 minutes were approved.

Report on Economic Development. Advisory Board meeting on “Planning for a Changing Brookline”

- Mr. Vitolo attended and reported that the discussion included planners, real estate investors, residents, property managers, etc. and was about small commercial parcels that are difficult to develop.
- The specific example was properties at the intersection of Boylston Street and Hammond Street.
- Though bicycle accommodations were discussed briefly, they did not show up in the summary of the discussion.

Report and discussion on Babcock Street

- Dr. Schreiber attended the July Transportation Board meeting for her appointment interview and noted that the Babcock Street issues are complex.
- Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Vitolo commented that both the residents and the BAC were caught off guard when Babcock Street was moved up on the repaving list.
- Mr. Kirrane is forming an ad hoc working committee to make recommendations about Babcock Street. Mr. Fink will represent the BAC on that committee.
- Mr. Vitolo observed that Babcock Street is part of the plan for traffic rerouting during the rebuilding of the Commonwealth Avenue bridge over the Massachusetts Turnpike. Therefore, Babcock Street will be resurfaced before that work starts with or without bicycle accommodations.

Follow-up

- Gateway East plans were presented to the Transportation Board at its July 23rd meeting; it is approaching 25% design and is targeted for FY 17 funding. The plan is similar to that presented at the May public meeting, with cycle tracks on both sides of Route 9 from the Washington-High Street intersection to the Route 9 crossing, which is a separate but related project.
- Beacon Street westbound hill from Marion Street to Washington Square. Another traffic count has to be done after the lights at Centre Street are retimed and students are back in September.

The Committee expressed concern that public discussion of such a sensitive topic will be rushed. Ms. Snow will discuss the issue with Mr. Kirrane when he returns from vacation.

- If Beacon Street project gets put off again, other possible projects for the CIP FY 17 funding request that might be considered:
 - More bike racks (e.g., Cypress and Washington, at Town Hall; these are generally looked on with favor)
 - Newton Street and Grove Street to Putterham Circle
 - Intersections (That's where most of the crashes happen. How should they be prioritized?)
- The scheduled Beacon Street improvements are underway; sharrows have been added, and the work on the bike lane extension to Webster Street is being worked on.
- Bike Friendly Community application has been delayed again. Ms. Snow said that she will finish the application and submit it to the Transportation Department for corrections. Mr Siemiatowski has experience and offered to review it.
- Public Transportation Advisory Committee asked if BAC would like to share a table at Brookline Day, September 20, 2015, and the reaction was favorable.

Upcoming Meetings

- Next meeting: **WEDNESDAY**, September 7, 2015
- Other meetings for 2015: October 3, November 7, December 5
- Proposed meetings for 2016: (First Monday of the month, except as noted): January 4, February 1, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, **WEDNESDAY** July 5, August 2, **WEDNESDAY** September 7, October 3, November 7, December 5

Meeting Adjourned

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.