



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINAL MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

- * Ken Carlson, Chair
- Tom Lamar, Vice Chair
- * Enid Kumin, Secretary
- * Alex Anderson
- Emily Balkam
- * Mark Chase
- * Alex Epstein
- Alex Frieden
- * Kevin McGrath
- * Alan Moore
- * Katie Pierce
- * Brian Postlewaite
- * Brandon Stafford
- Lena Webb
- * Ian Woloschin (Acting Secretary)

Ex-Officio:

- Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor
- Maryann Heuston, Board of Aldermen
- Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
- Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
- Deputy Chief Stephen Carrabino, Police Department
- *Mike Tremblay, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev.

Day/Date: Thursday Nov 2, 2017

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Police Department/ Washington Street

Meeting Start: 6:35 pm

Guests: Michael Weber, Dan McCool, Sarah Jansen, Jeff Schwom, Liza Burkin, Ian Schneider, Ted Feldman

Procedural, General Business & Updates (15 Minutes)

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Acting Secretary: Mark Chase
3. VOTE: Approve Nov Minutes
4. Community Path Extension! Mike Tremblay stated that project came in under budget so path will be extended all the way to Lechmere. Friends of Community Path meeting Wednesday 12/12 at the VNA on Lowell Street.
5. SBC looking for a new Secretary. **If interested please reach out to Ken Carlson**

City Update. (20 min)

Beacon Street—Update flex-posts are late arriving and may not happen this year. They have a limited number of flex-posts and they will be installed in key locations along the street. Also, DPW has reservations about how easy it will be to work around the flex-posts. Committee members and the public talked about trying to keep people out of the cycle track/ bike lanes on Beacon Street.

City will keep bike detour in place over the course of the winter.

There are a few missing Stop signs missing. There's a question about whose jurisdiction the stop sign is in (MassDoT or City).

A question was raised about seams in the Beacon Street Cycle track. Mike Trembley says he hopes that pant/epoxy treatment will smooth the seams out. Brian P mentions using cycle grip to mark avoiding the door-zone and better channelizing bikes away from hazards.

Ken said that we will continue to monitor the "asks" in the letter sent last week so that they are dealt with in the Spring.

A question was raised about Newport and how well they are performing. "Can we not hire them again?" Mike Trembley points out that this is a MassDoT contract. Ken Carlson said to the effect of, we should do a review of the whole project at the end of the year. Ken gives Newport a failing grade, but also blames the City for lack of oversight. Mike Trembley hopes to improve construction management techniques and guides building off Boston's protocol.

Webster Ave: The City flyered homes and cars around 1PM and then later hit more cars around 5PM. Temporary parking bans are put in Sunday. Striping is programmed for Sunday night weather permitted. Flex-posts won't be put in until next year. Enhanced crosswalk has been installed. Hope to upgrade paint to Ruby Lake in the following years. The resurfacing next year will likely be just curb to trench pit and not curb to curb. They are only doing where they trenched.

Prospect Street: Signs and flex-posts are going in next week. This will help buses and cyclists. Brian points out that the bus/ bike lane is being respected without flex posts.

Neighborways: The City striped a few miles of Neighborways and people seem to be enjoying and using them. There have been a few critics of the project, but many more positive comments.

Broadway at Ball Square: A large wide colored crosswalk and painted bump out were installed. Alex requests that the "yield to pedestrian" panes be reinstalled after painting.

NACTO All ages and Abilities Guide. These are new standards that will really help us to install safer facilities. Mike Trembley will share these with the committee.

Bicycle Friendly Community: Somerville gets the gold from the League of American Cyclists. We still have a long way to go. Ken points out that we went from Bronze to Gold in 8 years. We are still on the low end of the gold tier.

Question by Jeff about the two-way cycling on Hancock Street, specifically about the pavement markings and signage--he maintains that they are not intuitive. Can we create something that explains traffic control devices. Mike Trembley said that they could also include something on the flyer that's included with parking permits. Katie does have that on the agenda for the education team. There's always more to do.

Focus Section 1: 2018 Priority Streets and champions Tom and Alex F (25 Minutes)

Ken Carlson summarized the SBC teams that meet to advance key focus areas (Engineering and Evaluation, Education, Enforcement etc.). In addition to the sub groups a project-based-champion so that each of the projects has a champion. Ken laid out what the champions would do to make projects come to fruition including engaging Ward Alderman, the 5 E teams and overseeing all applicable footwork (parking studies, community groups, engaging residents and businesses for support).

Specific projects for planning in the coming year. Ken is asking for people to help on one or more of these projects.

Park Street: slated for new striping. Ian Woloschin is leading this effort.

Broadway: parts of the street will be resurfaced

Lower Beacon: full reconstruction: Ken Carlson is the lead. We've conducted a week's worth of parking counts.
Medford Street: resurfaced and restriped next year with bollard protected bike lanes.

Elm Street: Parking Study 90% done. Kevin McGrath is leading this.

Medford Street: Walnut to Central Street- Katie is the champion. Is a complicated corridor because crosses many wards.

Holland Ave/ Davis to Teele Square. The lead is Lena

Broadway: Ball Square to McGrath. Lead Tom Lamar

Brandon: can we convince the City to move the parking needle regarding setting up parking zones?
Mark summarized the meeting with the Mayor; the Mayor said that parking zones need to be part of a broader policy effort. Mark points out that we need a specific project where this is needed to jump start this process.

Liza Burkin brought up that we are missing an E: Equity. There was discussion from by the Committee that we're focusing on Wards 1 and 4 in large part to address equity. Mark also raised that the committee itself is looking to diversify membership.

Ian Woloschin brings up that we need to pay attention to developments and what their parking impacts are.

Enid mentioned that we should be going out and meeting people where they are. Having meetings at the police station might inhibit people from attending meetings.

Focus Section 2: 2017 Accomplishments Moderated by Ken (20 Minutes)

General Accomplishments:

- Vision Zero announced
- Attaining Gold BFC Status
- Improved communication/coordination with Aldermen
- Zoned residential parking (not adopted by city yet)
- Continuous feedback to City on Beacon St project
- First contraflow lanes and contraflow-without-lanes (Newton, Hancock, Gilman/Oliver)
- First protected bike lanes in city on Washington St
- Robust SBAC membership
- Better representation at Traffic Commission
- Successful removal of on-street parking as needed (Dane, Medford, Webster)
- Successful Campaign/playbook for Webster Ave PBLs (now rolling out)
- Community Path extension to Lechmere (w/ Friends of Comm Path)
- Lots of press articles about Somerville biking

Education Committee Accomplishments:

- Somerville Bike News
- Bike Talk Social Hour
- Beacon St resident flyer (soon to be distributed)
- Contraflow video
- Advocacy panel at Bike Month kick off
- Robust FB presence (1774 Followers)

Encouragement Committee Accomplishments:

- Rush Hour Challenge
- Bike Week Kick-Off at Aeronaut
- Somerville Historic Ride (with Historic Preservation Commission)
- Bike Breakfasts
- Illuminations Ride

Enforcement Committee Accomplishments

- Winter Maintenance Letter
- Crash Report (not yet rolled out)
- Increased interaction with SPD (e.g. Jim Donovan)
- Uber/TNC Letter (not yet rolled out)
- Stop on the Line Every Time (not yet rolled out)

Engineering Committee Accomplishments

- Elm St Design
- College Ave/Powderhouse Blvd cycletrack
- Cedar St design input
- Dane St (previous year input but implemented this year)
- Medford St design input

- Neighborways- Dimick St, Hancock, Gilman/Oliver St, Others?
- Improvements to intersection of Somerville Ave/Webster
- Improvements to uphill section of Webster Ave

Evaluation Committee Accomplishments

- Annual City Pedestrian and Bike Counts
- Webster Ave Counts
- Webster Ave Parking Garage investigation
- Medford St counts and width measurements
- Prospect St bike lane/advocacy
- Lower Beacon St parking counts
- Successful campaign to convert Prospect St parking to make-shift PBL
- Updated Bike Map

Education/Encouragement/Enforcement Team Updates (10 min)

Beacon Street Flyer will be hopefully handing them out in the next week or so. They are going to hand them out and are looking for volunteers. Many people raised their hands including: Sarah Jansen, Kevin McGrath, Liza Burkin, Alex Anderson, Ken Carlson, Ted Feldman, Alan Moore and Michael Weber. Alex Epstein [incorrect] has access to large building.

Survey for schoolkids about their attitudes about cycling and how can we better support them to ride to work. The business survey is just to get a pulse of how business owners perceive bikes. Suggest that we also reach out to businesses to better reach out to cyclists.

Kevin McGrath is looking for a graphic designer to help with the “stop on the line” campaign. They are meeting 7:30AM Wednesday the 13th at Forge Bakery. Mike Tremblay says that Adam could do it if no one else volunteers.

Illumination Ride: Brian Postlewaite talked about a Facebook advertisement for the event on December 16th at 5:50 at the High School Parking Lot. Brian will be lining up police helpers through Deputy Chief Carrabino (sp). Brian sought feedback on whether they should go directly to Davis Square. Helpers for the illumination ride include: Enid, Liza, Alan, Kevin and Alex Epstein.

Banter over Beer: Favorite Winter biking fun. Location Nu Cafe