



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### **Community Representatives:**

**Ken Carlson, Chair**  
**Tom Lamar, Vice Chair**  
**Charlie Denison, Secretary**  
**Alex Anderson**  
**Emily Balkam**  
Alex Epstein  
**Enid Kumin**  
Alan Moore  
**Brian Postlewaite**  
**Brandon Stafford**  
**Sara Wasserman**  
**Ian Woloschin**

### **Ex-Officio:**

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor  
Matthew McLaughlin, Board of Aldermen  
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works  
Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking  
Deputy Chief Stephen Carrabino, Police Department  
**Adam Polinski (Acting) OSPCD**

### **Bold = in attendance**

**Guests: Captain Jim Donovan (Somerville Police Dept),  
Stephanie Hirsch (alderman candidate at large),  
Kevin McGrath , Tim Houde , Greg Shill (all residents)**

Day/Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2017

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

Location: City Hall Basement Lounge

### **Procedural and General Business - 20 min**

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Acting Secretary: (Charlie)
3. VOTE: Approve December Minutes  
**Approved unanimously**
4. Election of Officers  
-Annual re-election  
**Ken and Tom re-elected. Charlie is stepping down. Enid elected as Secretary. The Committee thanked Charlie for his service as Secretary**
5. Use of Slack for communication- Tom  
**No update. Move to Feb meeting.**
6. Passage of Ordinance to safeguard vulnerable road users- Ken for Alex  
**Alex drafted a great ordinance. Lance Davis and Mark Neidergang sponsored and it passed unanimously. The Ordinance is now on to Legislative Matters Committee. The SBAC neglected to give Brad and Adam a heads up- note to make sure to do this in the future.**  
**Adam: 25% of City trucks have sideguards and crossover mirrors. New trucks will all have them.**
  - Extra: Traffic Commission opening- anyone interested?

Greg expressed interest in applying for the position [Note after meeting- Greg was not able to commit for the position and Alex Frieden expressed interest and submitted an application for the Commission].

**Annual Report status- Alex A 10 min**

Most subteams have drafted their sections and saved them to Box. Sarah and Ken will combine them into one document. We still need photos for the report.

**Vision- Ken to lead discussion- 20'**

- **2017**
  - **Highest priorities**
    - Bike safety (this involved all Five E's)  
**Brian: Need to focus on comfort at some point.**
    - Webster Ave improvements  
**Prospect to Cambridge City Line. SBAC to draft a communication plan in the next month and to line up proponents. Neighbors want a crosswalk at Norfolk St. Final design will go through consultant. Eversource coming first to do utility work. Eval/Planning team will talk to Cambridge Bike Committee about coordinating efforts on their part of Webster Ave.**
    - Ensuring bike mobility/safety during Union Sq construction
    - Ensuring bike mobility/safety during Beacon St construction and ensuring final design. **It was brought up that we will probably need a temporary parking ban on Park St again during construction**
    - **Brian would like to add Elm St/Cedar St/Mossland St to the list. Cedar/Elm utility work to be completed by next year. City interested in plan to restripe/reconfigure with better bike accommodation. Engineering subteam also focusing on Powderhouse Blvd/Church St (but this is not a full committee priority yet)**
  - **Easiest low hanging fruit**
    - Contra flow on Marshall St
    - Bike Lane on School St from Medford to Highland
    - Release updated Bike Map
    - Increased communication with Aldermen
    - Transportation Survey
    - Promotion/enforcement of 25mph speed limit, creation of 20mph safety zones  
**Police are doing speed enforcement, looking for hot spots of speeding. Asking Bike Committee for suggestions of hot spots.**
    - **Alex A asked to add Contraflow on Roseland and No Parking in Bike Lane as additional low hanging fruit**
    - **Ken asked for education of Beacon St residents about how to interact with Cycletrack**
- **For next meeting- let's discuss goals for the Sub-Teams**
  - **Review 2017 Things to Improve List and take a look at 2016 goals**

### Update from City- Adam 30 min

- Our interests:
  - Truck safety requirements for upcoming Union Sq RFP
  - Update on Senior Transportation Planner position  
**Mike Trembley hired, formerly of Howard Stein Hudson**
  - Update on review of 2017 re-paving schedule  
**Being updated with the help of a consultant who is employing the Pavement Condition Index, done early-mid Feb. Ken pushed for Medford St from Somerville Ave to Cambridge line to be included.**
  - Status of getting a City Engineer to join Ex Officio Board  
**Engineering Department discussing who (Rich Raiche is the new City Engineer, replaced Charlie Quigley.)**
  - Further detail on Complete Streets Funding grant  
**This funding will be used for pavement markings and other treatments like cycle grip thermoplastic. Tom suggested that some be used for flex posts where needed. Some to be used for Spring Hill and East Somerville traffic calming on neighborways, new traffic lights at Tufts/Washington/Nolton. Ken suggested using some of it for Summer St super sharrows going westbound/downhill between Spring Hill and Davis Square.**
  - Webster Ave construction communication plans  
**Discussed in prior agenda item.**
  - Plan to advocate for Community Path Extension  
**Board of Aldermen asked City to write letter to MassDOT to complete the CPX to North Point, including as many cross-street connections as possible, and reduce jogging between North and South side of tracks.**
- Other updates from Adam:
  - OSPCD has hired a new communication person
  - HSIP 25% plans finished soon for: Washington St (New Washington St to Boston City Line), Broadway (near Trum Field), Park St, Temple St
  - New bike facility guide going out with parking permit mailers to residents
  - Bike/ped counts are up on the City web site

### Team Updates- 40'

- Education Team-Sarah 10'
  - Bike Talk series for 2017  
**Currently determining speakers**
  - Bike Month Kick-off Event- May 7 Aeronaut (with Encouragement Team)  
**Panel discussion will be focused on the different forms of bike advocacy.**
- Engineering Team- Brian 15'
  - Elm/Mossland/Cedar St Planning  
**Discussed in prior agenda item.**
  - **Powerhouse Square, team starting design, still a few years away. Brian reminded us that Powderhouse Circle is the most dangerous intersection per number of bikes traversed in the city.**
  - Summary of comments on Somerville Ave 15% Design  
**These improvements will take place after Union Square Early Action, before full Union**

**Square Reconstruction.**

- Discussion of bike lane direction on Prospect St
- **Other projects in progress: Webster Ave, Neighborways, North-South Route, School St**
- Enforcement Team- Greg 15'
  - Bike crash reports (in progress)  
**No statewide bike crash reporting**
  - Cars/Ubbers in bike lanes  
**Need more loading zones, esp for passenger cars, across the city. Committee should work to identify areas where this is most problematic.**
  - Truck safety ordinance  
**No update.**
  - Preventing Left hooks on Beacon St Cycletrack  
**Currently an issue. Need better markings and signage for cycle track crossings during construction.**
  - **Somerville 311 app: use it to report issues.**
  - **NYC ruling: Municipalities can be held liable for injuries/damages up to millions of dollars due to unsafe road conditions they knew about but took no action to fix. In Massachusetts this is capped at \$100,000**
  - **Somerville 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. Think about how to contribute to the festivities.**
- **Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM**