



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### **Community Representatives:**

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

### **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: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

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

Location: City Hall Basement Lounge

**Start Time**: 6:35 pm

### **Procedural and General Business - 15 min**

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
  - a. Jim Donovan, SPD Capt.
  - b. Kevin McGrath
  - c. Alex Freidman
  - d. Katie Pierce
  - e. Greg Shill
2. Acting Secretary: Ian
3. VOTE: Approve February Minutes
  - a. **Minutes Approved**
4. Changes in team leadership
  - a. Evaluation & Planning Team – new chair: Alex Friedman
  - b. Enforcement Team – new chair: Kevin McGrath
  - c. Ken thanked Tom Lamar and Greg Shill for their leadership of the Evaluation and Planning and Enforcement Teams, respectively (and respectfully).

5. Search for a new meeting room  
 Going forward, the SBAC Monthly Meeting will be held at the Somerville Police Department Academy Room  
 220 Washington St, Somerville, MA  
 6:30pm-8:30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Every Month
6. Meetings with Aldermen (Lance Davis, Maryann Heuston, Katjana Ballantyne)
  - a. Meetings with three Alderman about upcoming infrastructure projects were held over the last month by various members of the Committee. The Aldermen were very receptive to improving bike facilities and bike safety in their wards.
  - b. Mike Tremblay recommended not meeting in front of the full BoA, but instead in front of the Public Safety Committee. Ken to work with Mike to set up a meeting.
7. Google Calendar: send updates to Enid
8. Faded infrastructure: two proposals
  - a. Proposal one is to talk to Terry about moving some repainting to the springtime, instead of waiting for summer.
  - b. Proposal two is to focus on Beacon St/Cedar St detour routes. These proposals are not mutually exclusive.

**Vision- Mark Chase 15 min**

- Zoned permit parking for streetscape improvements
  - There's been a lot of intense discussion at Resistat Meetings and other special meetings over potential removal of parking.
  - Mark proposes creating a special zone for parking ("A Permit") on streets where cycle tracks or protected bike lanes (Examples: Beacon St. potentially, Elm St. in future) result in reduction of parking spaces. This permit would come with a "superset" of regular parking permit privileges. In other words, the A Permit would allow everything a regular parking permit does, but would also allow additional privileges beyond a normal parking permit.
  - The City would stop issuing new parking permits until a certain number of permits expired. The number of permits would then equal the number of available spots. New residents could add their names to a waiting list.
  - No active permits would be eliminated.
  - Over time, this system would lead to a better match between demand and available parking spaces.
  - The system would not preclude new residents' parking in the city, just potentially from parking right in front of their residence until they received an A Permit.
  - Next steps: meet with the Mayor first to enlist his support and then work with Aldermen. Maryann Hesuton and Mark Neidergang have expressed interest.
  - Initial focus would be on Beacon St

**Safety Focus- Ken 15 min**

- Beacon Street Cycle Track
  - SBAC has collected data on cycle track incidents (file on Box).
  - Cycle track is now closed until construction is complete.
  - Ken e-mailed a document to the Committee for their review that detailed earlier conflicts observed and which included recommendations:

- Bikes and cars at cross streets
    - Sight lines a problem for cars coming from cross streets. Cars proceed into cycle track to see on-coming traffic on Beacon. This has led to near misses, but no crashes we know of.
    - Cars making lefts from Beacon onto cross streets are not expecting bikes. Ian and others have encountered this.
  - Bikes and peds
    - One conflict resulted in a serious injury to a cyclist. Appeared to be the pedestrian's fault.
    - Bike-Ped conflicts often an issue with cycle tracks.
    - Final design should mitigate this by placing street furniture between cycletrack and sidewalk.
  - Recommendations to mitigate conditions during construction season
    - Install BMUFL signage on Beacon St
    - Place EMB's on Somerville Ave and at Inman border alerting cyclists to use detour route (Brian recommended putting sign on the chainlink fence opposite Mossland Ave
    - Put in place temporary parking ban on Dane St
  - Recommendations to improve conditions in final design
    - Apply green conflict paint on the cycle track at each cross street and at crosswalks
    - Apply white stripes on cycle track at approaches to cross streets to encourage slower speeds
    - Ensure clear demarcation between cycletrack and sidewalk
    - Promote enforcement to make sure cars stop at cross streets
    - Plan education effort for Beacon St residents about how to interact with the cycletrack
    - Work on reducing the incidence of recycling and garbage bins placed in cycletrack path
- Design Elements
  - Files on Box showing 100% design. Grading plans show raised crosswalk, but not raised cycle track.
  - Engineers originally said they could not raise crosswalks. SBAC is disappointed that the cycle track could not also be raised.
  - Mike (Tremblay) reported, in response to question from Ian, that he expected that the City would be doing educational outreach re cycle tracks.
- Maryann H. said she liked the education piece and the idea of signage to alert/get attention of all road users.

**Update from City- Adam & Mike 30 min**

- Inman Square re-design
  - City's position is Somerville will not advocate for a specific design, but will commit to work with Cambridge to align Somerville's streets with whatever design Cambridge chooses. Somerville wants to maximize safety, but will let Cambridge determine what

design best accomplishes that.

- Monday 3/27 @ 6pm – Maryann & Brad will host a meeting at SPD Academy Room (220 Washington St.).
- Annual Report
  - Adam plans to release to public on Friday 3/31/17.
- Education material in permit mailings
  - City has approved and printed educational materials to be inserted in Parking Permit mailers. The educational mailers will cover the different types of bike facilities and will provide information on the new speed limit in Somerville.
- Beacon Street safety and construction schedule
  - Construction begins Monday 3/27. Related discussion:
    - Ken asked whether we can keep Park St to Washington St open until construction reaches this area again.
    - Brandon asked when construction would be completed.
    - Mike responded that cycle track would be mostly done (paving complete) for Winter 2017. All construction not likely to end before early 2018.
- Snow removal policy update
  - The SBAC did not think snow removal on the Beacon St Cycletrack was satisfactory
  - Skye has received SBAC's draft snow procedure.
    - Ian asked how to make sure sidewalks next to cycle tracks are kept clear.
    - Mike responded that he was looking into this.
- HSIP update (Are we on track for 2017?)
  - City received 25% design, provided comments to Toole.
  - Optimistic for 2017 (autumn), but might slip to 2018 due to two other communities having issues with their designs
- Resurfacing plan update
  - Adam will set up meeting next week (evening) to go over 2017/2018 repaving plans and what pavement markings could be implemented. Focus on:
    - Dane St.
    - Powderhouse Blvd.
    - Broadway (Main St to McGrath)
    - Medford St by South St.
- Bike map roll out
  - Adam will send out more details.
- Request that City reach out to Tufts to engage on West Somerville PBL's
  - Mike needs more data on parking (preferably by next SBAC meeting), asked SBAC for help. Mark will organize parking study.
- Hubway Stations
  - @ Clarendon Hill Busway
    - Mike & Adam went to the Traffic Commission to get approval for a new Hubway station on Broadway @ Clarendon Hill Busway.
    - Targeted to install on 4/1/17.
    - Moving install from Somerville Hospital (lowest usage last year)

- Mike indicated, in response to a question from Alex, that we can get signage to alert users to the Mystic River Path (to Alewife).
  - @ Teele Square - install date in early April
- Bike Racks & Bike Corrals
  - Ken would like to cover this topic at next meeting.

### **Team Updates- 40 min**

- Evaluation and Planning
  - Goals- Alex F
    - Meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm @ Aeronaut
    - Bike Facility Inventory
    - Bike/Traffic/Parking Counts
    - Start doing some surveys (
    - Fixing issues on Beacon St
    - Contraflow projects
  - Webster Ave planning- Ken
    - There will be a need engineering firm to sign off on SBAC recommendations.
      - Brad has funding to allow for this to happen.
    - SBAC needs to do outreach.
      - Focus: Ward 2 residents
      - Idea: house party/outreach event at the house of a cyclist that Ken knows who lives on Webster
      - Plan: encourage support for the project
      - Ken has started planning for an April date for party/outreach.
      - Time constraint: prepare for Resistat Meetings in late May
      - Mark can talk to Taza.
    - Mike/Adam will talk to Cambridge to let them know about the project.
  - West Somerville protected bike lane project update- Mark
    - Mark recommends City engage with Tufts ASAP.
    - Mark presented to Tufts. Presentation was well received.
- Encouragement
  - Next meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> @ Aeronaut (after E&P Meeting)
  - Bike Month Kick-off Event- Alex A
    - Main event Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 12pm @ Aeronaut
    - May try to organize Somerville Open Studies tour the morning of May 7<sup>th</sup>
    - Need lots of help!
    - Alex working on poster/facebook event.
  - Rush Hour Challenge Update- Alex A
    - Expect to hold event Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>
    - AM/PM Challenge
      - Dudley Square to Faneuil Hall in the morning
      - Faneuil Hall to Redbones in the afternoon
    - Need lots of help, AM & PM!
    - Alex will circulate signup sheets.
  - Tour de Somerville- Alan

- Historic Ride moved to fall, Tour de Somerville in spring.
  - “Fluffernutter Ride”
    - Start at Conway, buy bread from La Ronga
    - Get peanut butter in Medford from Teddy Peanutbutter
    - Bike Northern Strand Trail to Lynn to get Fluff
    - Bike to beach in Swampscott to eat
    - Take train (or bike) home
  - SBAC recommends Tour de Somerville ride in June.
- Education- Sara
  - Bike month Kick-off Panel
    - May 7<sup>th</sup>
    - Galen Mook as moderator
  - Updating SBAC handouts for spring.
- Enforcement
  - Leadership
    - Kevin McGrath has taken over leadership role.
  - Goals
    - Bike Crash Survey will be uploaded to Box for review.
    - Enforce parking rules (i.e., cars are excluded) in bike lanes. Cooperate with other entities in the state (BCU, Liveable Streets, MassBike, etc.) to do this.
    - Publicize bike thefts.
  - Enforcement will be first Team Update for next meeting.