



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Minutes

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

Ken Carlson, Chair

Tom Lamar, Vice Chair

Katie Pierce, Secretary

Alex Anderson

Emily Balkam

Mark Chase

Alex Epstein

Alex Frieden

Ted Feldman

Enid Kumin

Ted Lester

Kevin McGrath

Alan Moore

Brandon Stafford

Lena Webb

Ian Woloschin

Ex Officio:

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor

Jesse Clingan, Board of Alderman

Commissioner Stan Koty, Dept. of Public Works

Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking

Mike Tremblay, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev

Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

Guests:

Mark Vollingar

Jenna Glat

Ben Holmes

Lillian Worth

Zachary Zimmerman

Sara Moaveni

Sky Rose

Thursday May 3, 2017, 6:30-8:00 PM, Police Department, Washington St

Meeting began: 6:32PM

Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 Minutes)

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Acting Secretary: Ian Woloschin
3. VOTE: Approve April Minutes
 - a. **Minutes Approved**
 - b. **ACTION: Emily to approve final changes**
4. SBAC Business Liaison
 - a. Ken introduced Ben Holmes of Aeronaut who is interested in becoming more involved, Ken suggested adding a local business liaison to the SBAC
 - b. Ben is a member of the Chamber of Commerce which may afford for some great synergy moving

- forward towards helping businesses understand the benefits of being a bike friendly business and improved bicycle infrastructure overall
- c. Keeping everything informal for now as a trial, will re-evaluate in 6 months
5. Meeting with DPW- Ken/Tom
- a. Ken/Tom/Mike met with DPW for a followup on the Snow Removal Meeting
 - b. Stan requested several more meetings over the summer to establish priorities for snow removal with some of the new equipment that will be operational for next winter
 - i. **ACTION: E&P will create street priority list**
 - c. Goal is to establish a set of expectations based on snowfall so there are no surprises when cyclists are out after a storm
 - d. **ACTION: Brandon wants a picture of the new snow equipment for SBAC Newsletter**
 - e. Katie wants to know if 311/DPW will enforce sidewalks/cycle tracks that are not properly treated
 - i. Mike says that it is a delicate situation and not always possible to fine
 - f. Ken reminds everyone that this is a budget issue
 - g. Ian asks if there's anything we need to do to help with budget for this year
 - i. Mike said that DPW is already working on it and knows what has been asked for
 - h. **ACTION: Ken wants to meet with Mayor Curtatone in the fall**
6. SBAC membership renewals
- a. Members must renew every 2 years
 - b. **ACTION: Any members who are not current please confirm renewal with Mike T.**
 - c. Guest Zach asked if it's a nomination or application to join, Ken answered that it is primarily application driven

City Update. (25 min)

1. Cedar St Updates
- a. Critical work on Summer to Highland beginning next week
 - b. Any changes to stripping need to happen very soon
 - c. Mike thinks best is to go forward with current design, but not preclude future improvements
 - d. Mike reached out to NACTO for opinions on contraflow designs
 - e. Current plans do not include a Contraflow lane
 - f. Contraflow suggestion squeezes all lanes to minimums and removes a buffer from the bike lane
 - g. Alternatives for Summer to Highland (would require engineering approval)
 - i. Flip parking so contraflow is against the curb, but it results in a downhill door zone bike lane
 - ii. NACTO suggested a two way cycle track where current bike lane is
 - h. Questions on why not do it like Hancock St?
 - i. Mike says Cedar St volume is too high
 - i. All contraflow options will require signal changes
 - j. Ben asked if there are any ways to have downhill cyclists share the lane with motor vehicles
 - i. Mike suggested maybe priority markings
 - ii. Brandon said that sharrows aren't adequate for shared lanes
 - iii. Kevin said that priority markings don't work well in other areas (Comm Ave in Allston) and also raised concerns about visibility
 - 1. Mike said this is why he wants engineering approval for any designs
 - k. Mark asked if a pop up bike lane with cones could be an appropriate step for validating any design ideas before painting happens
 - l. Cedar North of Highland will remain sharrows due to width, but does gain "pocket turn lanes" to make left turns onto the Community Path and new bike boxes at ends of Cedar

- m. Ian asked about legal concerns turning onto the Community Path through a crosswalk, Mike says it's already legal to bike through
 - n. Tom asked about conditions over the bridge, Mike said that if there's no parking it might be feasible to add in an uphill bike lane
 - i. **ACTION: Mike to explore parking**
 - o. **ACTION: E&P and Engineering to review Mike's designs**
 - p. **ACTION: Ken asks the Committee to review if sharrows should be used going forward on new projects**
2. Updates on Beacon St reconstruction and decision
 - a. Actively working on the whole stretch, heavy work down to dirt south of Washington St
 - b. Detour route still active, cycletrack is not open. due to continued work on Beacon St throughout summer
 - c. Mike asked for additional warnings for cyclists on Somerville Ave before they turn down Beacon St and are forced into traffic
 - d. Ken asked about cars not stopping for stop signs, adding extra signage to better encourage drivers to actually stop on the stop line before slowly proceeding forward when the crosswalk and cycle track are clear
 - i. Mike said the City is looking at temporary green paint for problem intersections
 - e. Kevin asked about using a stop sign equivalent of "Stop Here On Red" signs, Mike has not been able to find a similar appropriate sign though
 3. Beacon Street cycle track signage overview
 - a. The City has ordered temporary signage to help pedestrians notice the cycle track when walking in the area, they can be replaced with full signs later, signs should be posted sometime next week
 4. Timing on Webster Ave
 - a. Not going to happen until later this summer
 - b. Mike asks if we should put flexposts up on existing conditions?
 - c. Ken says no flexposts until road is repaved
 - d. Ian asked about very intermittent placement to help prevent cars from parking, but not enough to impede cyclists dodging potholes
 - e. Tom asks if Webster is delayed if Medford St could be pushed up, Mike says it's unclear
 - f. **ACTION: Mike to find out if "later this summer" is August or autumn**
 5. Vision Zero next steps
 - a. Still need to form a steering committee
 - b. Some internal work happening within the City

Team Updates (40 min)

1. Education: PSA's and other education efforts- Katie 10'
 - a. PSA's
 - i. Working with SCATV who is giving us their interns for 3-5 Bike PSA's, each about 1 minute long, should be ready by Autumn
 - ii. Education already has ideas planned
 - iii. Ideas
 1. Overview of biking in Somerville
 2. Visibility at night
 3. Bike Infrastructure
 4. Ride Share
 5. Equity

- iv. **ACTION: Committee members to provide taglines for PSA's (Katie will share with team)**
 - v. Ken suggested a PSA on Hancock St
 - vi. Katie prefers to start with more generic PSA's, instead of project specific ones
 - b. Short Education Rides
 - i. Highlight areas that need new infrastructure
 - ii. Katie wants to work with local residents/businesses to build advocacy for new infrastructure
 - iii. Mike recommends working with Young Professionals in Transportation
- 2. Evaluation and Engineering: Vision for teams; Champion and projects spreadsheet Ted/Brandon 15'
 - a. SBAC Championship Checklist
 - i. 10 step process to help guide SBAC Champions with how to tackle a project
 - ii. Broken into internal & public process
 - iii. Big focus on parking mitigation instead of just understanding if parking can be removed
 - iv. Ken & Mike recommend working with OSPCD before BoA to help better target resources
 - v. **Action: Ted to post SBAC Champion Checklist in Box**
- 3. Enforcement: Next steps with Stop on the Line campaign; other enforcement issues- Kevin 10'
 - a. Got Stop on the Line flyers for tabling
 - b. Looking into temporary signage to help remind motorists to stop on the line, obvious target area is Beacon St but any crosswalk/bike lane blind spots are great places for this
 - c. Steve did some Stop on the Line Enforcement on Beacon St
 - i. Pulled over the same people multiple times on different days
 - ii. Recommends improved pavement markings
 - d. Ken asked for percentage of motorist blowing the stop signs
 - i. Steve says about 50%
 - e. Aggressive drivers on Elm St
 - i. Capture stories/data from community members
 - ii. VMB has been placed on Elm St to remind motorists that cyclists can use the full lane
 - f. Steve has one more VMB
 - i. Ken suggested placing it on Webster near Prospect
 - g. SPD Non Emergency Number (617) 625-1600, but then there is a phone tree
- 4. Encouragement: Kick-off and Bike Breakfast review; Tabling material; What's next? –Alex 10'
 - a. Bike Breakfast went well, surprisingly high number of cyclists on Beacon St
 - b. Kick-off
 - i. Everyone liked layout of tables in the back
 - ii. Jeff Speck's talk was excellent
 - iii. Mark recommends not doing outdoor activities unless we get it more official
 - c. **ACTION: Setup tabling with Aeronaut Allston popups?**
 - d. Bike Talk postponed to 5/16, will be coupled with Ride of Silence immediately after Bike Talk
 - i. Visiting Joe Lavin's & Anita Kurmin's ghost bikes before ending at the State Capitol
 - e. Bay State Bike Week coming up May 12-20th

Banter over Beer: Location TBA