



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

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

Ex-Officio:

Open position, 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
Open position, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev.

Day/Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2016

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

Location: City Hall Basement Lounge
93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143

Procedural and General Business - 10 min

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Acting Secretary: Brandon
3. VOTE: Approve August Minutes
Minutes were approved.
4. Moving forward without Jennifer Molina
5. Plan to add new ex-officios

Focus: Safety- Ken 10 min

- Dutch Reach
 - Michael Charney has started a Dutch Reach campaign in Cambridge.
 - We'll have some materials on the website soon.
 - Suggestions for promotion: make 1000 stickers with compelling graphics; make something shareable that can reach drivers, not just cyclists
 - Michael Charney needs help with creating a website.
 - **Action item: Kevin to ask around for a web designer** [Note after meeting - Michael Charney has gotten a web site up and running]

Vision: Data! - Ken 10 min

- All Things Data
 - In the American Community Survey, Somerville dropped from 7.4% bike mode share to 5.8%. This is likely not a real drop but due to statistical error. Ken asked if there is a better way to collect survey data such as a city-initiated transportation survey
 - Every development has to do traffic counts; maybe they could be required to count bikes, not just four-wheeled vehicles.
 - The city has a movable automatic counter that is under the control of Adam Polinski.
 - **Action item: discuss the use of the counter with Adam.**

Update from City- Adam 30 min

- Job posting for replacement for Jennifer Molina
 - Adam and Brad will serve as caretakers to the committee for the next 60 days.
 - Brad currently working on job description, trying to hire by November *[Note after meeting- the job description was posted October 13]*
- More detailed crash data
 - The city has a data dashboard, developed with City employees in Somerstat. Working on automating submission of crash data. Also working on a more general transportation data dashboard; hoping for some crash data up in the next month or so.
 - Okay to share the summary data now.
- Parking permits increasing by 1000 permits per year [Note: how does this compare with population growth per year?]
- Beacon Street construction update
 - Things are settling down on Beacon. Detour routes are better now. Initial chaos was painful, but the city did well to get Newport and MassDOT to address most issues. Still missing pavement markings and signage on Beacon before winter.
 - There were some missed detour signs on Washington/Dane.
 - Work will not go past Washington Street before winter. Next year should be easier because open segments should be shorter.
 - The cycletrack will likely be constructed before winter but it will not be in final form.
- Union Square Early Action Update
 - Sewer separation underway in Union Square
- Resurfacing Updates – Highland, Dane, Summer
 - Highland underway, to be finished in the next few weeks.
 - Milling and re-paving is proceeding on Summer Street and the parking switch to the south side, while not easy to get approved, is going forward.
 - Dane won't get finished until 2017.
- HSIP Updates – Park, Temple, Broadway, Washington
 - Parking configuration on Park St will be changed according to the SBAC's recommendations with no parking from the train tracks to Beacon Street on the uphill section and no parking from the train tracks to Somerville Ave.
- Bike rack installation
 - Bike racks are being installed in 45 locations, mostly based on older requests.

Team Updates- 60'

- Encouragement- Alex 15'
 - Tour de Somerville, Saturday, October 29th. Theme may be "Beverages of Somerville" or tour Scout's "Best of Somerville."

- Evaluation and Planning- Tom 5'
 - No updates recorded.

- Engineering- 20'
 - The engineering team is excited about more data from the city, especially data that isn't already publicly available. Traffic counts would be great; we don't have the expertise for that yet.
 - **Action item: Ken will discuss traffic counting with Skye Stewart.**
 - A good long-term goal would be determining what intersections are most dangerous. Crash rates based on crashes per traffic volume (bike/MV/ped) are a better indicator of danger than absolute crash numbers with no exposure context.
 - Webster Ave plans
 - Parking study complete; recommendation underway.
 - Re-surfacing existing Community Path
 - The city is trying to do just paving this year with D&R. The city wants to put off drainage and other requested improvements.
 - The city thinks they can do the later work without damaging the new pavement.

- Education- Sara 10'
 - Working with SCA-TV to make video clips.
 - Emailed high school headmaster about gathering bike data about students.
 - Working to get something going with Jan Marie and SHIFT in East Somerville.

- Enforcement- Ian 5'
 - Still scheduling a meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:34 PM.