

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES January 27, 2004

AGENDA Membership, City Report, Community Path, Mayor's Letter, 2004 Priorities, Officer Elections, Announcements

ATTENDEES Turil Cronburg, Jim Gallagher, Alan Moore, Ron Newman, Greg Palmer, Bhupesh Patel

Absent: Jenifer Kaminsky, Asher Miller, Domenic Siraco

Officials: Tuck O'Brien, Stephen Winslow - OHCD

Community Path Rep: Joel Bennett

1. **Minutes approved** - December meeting minutes approved with editorial comments (Bhupesh to finalize)
2. **Membership**
 - a. **Officials:** Heather Rowe of the Mayor's Office and David Dow of DPW have left City service. Bill Lyons of Traffic and Parking has left. Mike Buckley is expected to be the Mayor's contact. Officer Jim Hodgdon has not attended recently due to questions about how he can track his time.
Follow-up: Tuck O'Brien will follow-up on contacts within the city, including DPW and asking for a new appointee.
Follow-up: Bhupesh will draft a letter to Mayor Joe Curtatone detailing several commitments Bill Lyons made to the SBC before he left for Iraq.
 - b. **Alderman:** the Board of Aldermen need to be contacted to regarding a new representative.
Follow-up: Bhupesh will initiate the contact.
 - c. **Appointed members:** Turil and Domenic will be resigning. The committee needs to identify new appointees. Suggestions included - looking at the list from Tour de Somerville, contacting the owner of Redbones and local bike shops. Jenifer must be contacted to assess her future interest. Other members may need to be reappointed
Follow-up: Steve W. will check City Clerk's office for roster of members and terms.
3. **City Report**
 - a. **Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator** - Stephen Winslow was introduced as the new Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator. Steve will work part-time 18 hours per week on a regular schedule (Monday, Tuesdays, and Thursday afternoons for now). Steve has experience overseeing the planning and design of the Bike to the Sea trail and the Commercial Street / Corporation Way project in Malden and Medford. He also has significant experience in the area of hazardous waste contamination, both from TeleCom City and from working 10 years at MA DEP.

Steve will focus on the Community Path as a key priority and spend additional time focused on how the impact of various public and private projects on bicylists and pedestrians.

b. **Project Reviews**

1. Stop and Shop - Tuck and Steve noted that the Stop and Shop plan on McGrath and Mystic is now advancing towards construction. Steve pointed out that the Planning Board approval contained a provision that Stop and Shop work with the Somerville Bicycle Committee to improve proposed bicycle parking and amenities for employees bicycling to work. Bhupesh noted that the Committee had sent a letter [Aug. 2001] related to those issues - he will send the letter to Steve who will review the plans to make sure the comments have been addressed. A question also remains whether the crossing to Assembly Square has been preserved.
Follow-up: Steve Winslow to see if Inspectional Services Dept. has latest plans and will check if the crossing is incorporated.

2. Lowell St. Bridge - OHCD has not seen 100% design to determine whether access to abutting property has been included. Greg Palmer expressed concern about any plans to sell Community Path right-of-way to allow access.

Follow-up: Steve will check with DPW to see if they 100% design plans and will review them to see if access has been included. Jeff Levine has received assurances from the MBTA that no portion of the ROW is being considered for sale.

3. Sycamore St. Bridge - new bridge will be designed this year.
4. Cross St. Bridge - No immediate plans for replacement
5. Union Square / Webster Ave. Bridge - Designer selected: Howard Stein-Hudson
6. Washington St. - moving forward slowly, includes bike lane plans and MBTA commuter rail undercrossing
7. College Ave., Temple St. - redesigns not going forward now.
8. Magoun Square - Enhancement Project - 25% design meeting held January 29th
9. Porter Square Plan - meeting scheduled for Thursday Feb 5th, 6:30 pm Baldwin School Cafeteria, 28 Sacramento St., Cambridge
10. Route 28 - there's a design charette on Monday Feb 2nd - the committee agreed that McGrath Hwy. should be a priority bike route.

4. **Community Path Update**

Steve W. reported that the survey for the Cedar to Central section will begin in the next few months. Once the survey is done, a base map for this

segment will be prepared and a design initiated. An engineering feasibility study will be initiated for the segment from School St. to Red Bridge.

5. **Letter to new mayor**

Bhupesh wrote a letter that was reviewed. He will make some changes based on the committee's comments and send to Mayor Curtatone.

6. **Priorities for 2004**

Committee members expressed their own list priorities for 2004:

Asher:

Dealing with road rage
Bike lane improvements
Improving parking and other facilities to encourage bicycling

Greg:

Mass. Hwy. path project: Linear Park-Davis Sq. crossing-busway-parking lot
Education for cyclists
PR about committee
Bike racks and parking
Mapping of City
Addressing one-way streets that cut-off potential routes

Bhupesh:

10-year Bike and Ped plan (focus on crosstown routes)
Davis Square Bike station / crossing
Porter Square air rights site
Community Path- planning next stages

Tuck:

Better coordination with permitting
Guidelines for Dept. heads
More parking rings installed
Davis Square crossing
Bike parking ordinance

Alan:

Community Path extension
Safe Routes to School
MDC/DCR - Alewife development

Ron:

Bike parking - follow Arlington example
Monitor large developments for bike accommodations
Amelia Earhart Dam crossing
Rt. 28 undercrossing or crosswalk
Flat route cross town routes (signed, promoted - with some type of contraflow arrangement if needed)
Review of one-way street pattern - allow contraflow of bikes on some

Jim G.:

Bike parking Ordinance
Education followed by enforcement
Green line ext - bike path to Union Square

Turil:

Road rage

Material to residents about bicycling
Bike parking ordinance
Safe Routes to School involvement
Printing and distributing the "Somerville Bikes" map

Joel:

Keeping committee vibrant

7. Officer Elections for 2004

Alan Moore was elected Chair
Ron Newman was elected Vice Chair
Greg Palmer was elected Secretary

8. Announcements

The Brookline Bicycle Committee has been abolished by its Transportation Board. Members expressed interest in writing a letter to support that committee.

Ron noted that former Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay appreciated the going away gift from the committee.

Alan noted his contact with the Somerville Climate Action Committee and will send along a letter to that committee along with the SBC guidelines.

Alan attended the quarterly meeting on the Mass. Central rail trail
Bhupesh noted that the Harvard Square design committee proposed including a u-turn for bikes so that bikes could avoid the Science Center underpass.

9. Next meeting: Feb. 24, City Hall

Meeting Adjourned 9:05pm