

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held February 24, 2004

AGENDA

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

ATTENDEES Bhupesh Patel Greg Palmer Jim Gallagher
 Alan Moore Jenifer Kaminsky

Absent: Asher Miller, Ron Newman
Officials: Stephen Winslow - OHCD
Community Path Rep: Joel Bennett

1. **Minutes approved** - January meeting minutes approved
2. **Follow-up to 1/27/2004 Monthly Meeting**
 - a. **New DPW Contact** - No report (Tuck O'Brien)
 - b. **Letter to Mayor** - Bhupesh has not yet sent revised letter
 - c. **Members and Terms** - A list of members and their terms was handed out. The terms of Turil Cronburg and Domenic Siraco had expired. Other terms expire in February 2005. Corrections to the names of Jenifer Kaminsky and Asher Miller are needed. The new officers need to be shown. (Steve to follow-up with City Clerk).
 - d. **Stop and Shop (S. Winslow)** - see the City report
 - e. **Lowell Street Bridge (S. Winslow)** - see the City report
3. **City Report** -
 - a. **Jeff Levine** - Jeff will be leaving the City the first week of March to work in the Brookline Planning Dept.
 - b. **Administration Updates** - The transportation "cabinet" serves as the main forum for discussing interagency transportation issues. Lucy Warsh is the Mayor's representative to the Cabinet. Steve mentioned the need for new bike committee members at the Transportation Cabinet. Once the Committee identifies some additional members, Steve will follow-up with the Mayor's Office.
 - c. **Community Path** - The survey work for the Cedar to Central segment has begun. Steve has contacted Cambridge Health Alliance and the MBTA to initiate talks on obtaining permission to design and construct the Path. Steve handed out the schedule for the work. Jim Gallagher noted that the schedule did not mesh with the TIP funding schedule that will happen in June 2004 for FY 2005. Steve will look at speeding up the schedule and attempting to get CHA and MBTA support garnered by June deadline.

School St. to Cambridge city line - a Request for Proposals for conceptual engineering services will be issued in March. Steve shared the draft Scope of Work for the RFP with Joel Bennett. The Bicycle Committee will be contacted when a contractor has been hired. The Friends of the Community Path can help with Community involvement.

Davis Sq. to Cedar St. - a couple of projects at 131 Willow Ave. and 35R Lexington Ave. will replace old commercial buildings with residential developments. On the whole members agreed that these projects should be an improvement over existing conditions and are good for encouraging use of the path. The committee itself did not have any opinions on the aesthetic

impact of these developments on the trail. Individual members plan to attend the public meetings (3/10/04 on 35R Lexington) and will report back on these projects. Concerns with Path encroachment in general were discussed and it was felt that the Planning and Parks departments should be contacted.

- d. **Stop and Shop** - Steve and Bhupesh met to discuss this development. Steve sent an e-mail to Stop and Shop's attorney regarding on-site bike accommodations and will follow-up next month. Steve noted that Stop and Shop appears poised to change the location of the main entrance of Blakely Ave. so that it is skewed from Kensington Ave. This was in response to neighborhood concerns. Steve contacted Todd Blake (Traffic & Parking) about the off-site traffic plan. The Traffic Commission approved plans in November and the state Department of Conservation and Recreation approved changes to McGrath Highway to include a new turn into S&S. As a result, the opportunity to officially comment on those plans has passed. However, Bhupesh and Steve will still maintain communication to see if volunteer improvements can still be gotten.
 - e. **Lowell St. Bridge** - The 100% plans have not been finalized.
 - f. **Assembly Square** - a major effort has begun to re-do the zoning for this area. Specifics were to be announced on February 26, 2004. Bhupesh sat on the design review committee. A public meeting will be held March 18th. Voted To have Bhupesh write a letter encouraging the incorporation of bike-related design guidelines developed by the review committee into the new Assembly Square zoning requirements.
 - g. **Somerville Ave.** - The projected cost is \$2 million more than budgeted. Tuck O'Brien and Todd Blake worked to see what cost reductions could be made. Not sure of the impacts on bikes and peds. The Mayor's office did decide that historic lighting should be used in all reconstruction projects.
 - h. **Magoun Square** - A public meeting about streetscape improvements was held. Indications are that the project implementation will be slow due to funding constraints.
 - i. **Route 28 (McGrath Hwy.) Study** - A charette was held focused on Route 28 from Boston to Wellington Circle, Medford. Bhupesh plans to stay involved to ensure that bicycles are adequately accommodated and that connections to Assembly Square are upgraded.
4. **Membership** -
- a. **Officials:** New City reps (Mayor's Office, Board of Aldermen, DPW, Police) need to be identified.
 - b. **Aldermen:** the Board of Aldermen need to be contacted to regarding a new representative. Bhupesh will initiate the contact.
 - c. **Appointed members:** Greg, Alan and Steve will meet to discuss ways to do outreach to encourage new members to join. Possibilities:
 - Announce in The Ride, Journal, Globe
 - Email to Tour de Somerville list, Friends of the Community Path list
 - Contacts past applicants
 - Flyers in bike shops
 - other

5. **Priorities for 2004**

The Committee Members did not have enough time to make priorities. Review of the following list of individual priorities was tabled until next meeting:

Asher

Dealing with road rage

Bike Lane improvements
Improving parking and other facilities to encourage bicycling

Greg

Alewife T, Davis Square, Cedar St CP extensions
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
CP 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
MHC/DCR - Alewife development

Ron

Bike parking - follow Arlington example
Monitor large developments for bike accommodations
Amelia Earhardt Dam crossing
Rt 28 undercrossing or crosswalk
Flat route cross town (signed, promoted - with some type of "contra-flow"
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

6. Other discussion points -

Email and other communications to keep actions moving between monthly meetings.
Copying letters, etc. to other departments in addition to Planning in order to insure communications.
Inclusion and prioritization of pedestrian issues by the Bicycle Committee.

7. Action Items -

SW to look at compressing Path extension design schedule and garner support from CHA and MBTA.
BP & SW will continue communications with S&S on possible bike and ped improvements.

GP & BP will look at plans for 131 Willow and 35R Lexington.
BP will prepare letter to mayor re: items planned by former T&P Dir. Bill Lyons.
Asher will write a summary of the process for moving items from the Bike Committee through the City
BP will initiate the contact regarding a new Alderman representative.
Greg, Alan and Steve will meet to discuss ways to do outreach to encourage new members to join.
Bhupesh write a letter encouraging the incorporation of bike-related design guidelines developed by the review committee into the new Assembly Square zoning requirements.

8. Announcements -

March 25th is the date for WalkBoston's annual meeting.
WalkBoston will host a "Mystic Crossing" Walk on April 24th at 1 pm from the Blessing of the Bay boat house.
The Mystic River Herring Run is scheduled for May 2nd.
An historic bike tour of Somerville, co-sponsored by the SBC and the city's Historic Preservation Commission is planned for May 22nd.

9. Meeting Adjourned 9:05pm

Prepared by Stephen Winslow and reviewed by Greg Palmer
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