

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE
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Bhupesh Patel

Mike Buckley, Office of the Mayor
Board of Aldermen
Jim Hodgdon, Police
Traffic and Parking
Stephen Winslow,
Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD)

Denise Provost,

Todd Blake,

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, July 20, 2004, City Hall

ATTENDEES Ron Newman, Greg, Jim G., Bhupesh, Steve, Joel Bennett- Friends of the
Community Path. Guests: Peter and Abigail Coyle

1. Minutes approved - Ron Newman, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm. The June 2004 minutes were approved as amended.

2. Guests - Peter and Abigail Coyle saw the SBC meeting notice in the Somerville Journal. Peter is the store manager at McIntyre and Moore, where he has worked since 1998. They moved to Somerville two years ago when they bought their first house. Abigail is Production Coordinator at a small academic publishing company in Cambridge, Hackett Publishing. She's producing a book for the Somerville Arts Council that they are planning to accompany this year's Illuminations Tour.

3. City Report - Steve Winslow

A. Community Path

Steve is following up with the Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) about a letter sent to them by the city asking for a rigorous support letter for the path, which is proposed to run through/adjacent to a CHA-owned parking lot at Central St. A contract has gone out for Phase 2, School St. to Cambridge city line. Jim G. mentioned that the path is not listed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2005; Steve replied that it won't get listed until MassHighway approves it; the strategy now is to get it into the 2006 or 2007 TIP. He also said that construction of Phase 1 of the path will wait until the Lowell St. bridges are finished. One other option briefly mentioned was the possibility of splitting Phase 1 into Cedar-to-Woodbine St., just before the CHA lot, until issues are resolved; then continue to Central St.

B. Somerville/Cambridge/Belmont path improvements - A letter has gone to the Mayor's office regarding obtaining a lease from the MBTA for access to the Davis Sq. busway.

C. DNC road restrictions - Ron shared his map of bike routings through the city during the week of the Democratic convention. He had some questions, which Steve answered, about specific streets.

D. Lowell St. bridges - Will the freight spur/path site be used as construction staging area? Bhupesh said he did not know, but that the Conservation Commission should have weighed in at some point. An answer is needed. Will there be a temporary bridge for pedestrians and bikes?

Ron heard that there won't be one. Greg said that goes against what he recalled earlier on, that there would be one. **Action Item: Steve will find out, tell Jim G., who will contact Ald. Sean O'Donovan.**

E. Clyde/Warwick sts. property - Steve spoke with KSS (developers); they don't see the freight spur right-of-way as an answer to access their property. They still see a Lowell St. entrance/exit as carrying 80% of expected traffic. Greg mentioned that some neighbors have expressed their opposition to the Lowell St. option. Bhupesh said the SBC ought to have a "wish list" of needs, to be part of a continuing dialogue with KSS. Joel noted that the SBC has not gone on the record as supporting or not supporting other development projects in the city. Ron said that it was premature for discussions with KSS, at this stage; he also wondered if KSS would consider building the portion of the Community Path adjoining their property.

F. Alpine St. - Bhupesh has one more meeting with the city Planning Dept. Steve said there will be two design options for the parking lot encroachment at Cedar St., one with a lot, one without.

G. Stop and Shop - Steve said the site engineer has moved the Kensington Ave. pedestrian crossing away from the loading docks. There has been no progress on a proposed ped. crossing at McGrath Hwy. and Blakely St. Joel will do a site visit there as well as at Mystic Ave./Kensington Ave. Bhupesh has spoken to Ald.-at-Large Denise Provost, who has sent neighbors' comments to the mayor. Bhupesh said he will talk with Ward 1 Ald. Bill Roach.

4. Membership - Asher Miller has resigned from the committee. Dereck Mangus's name will be submitted to the Board of Aldermen this week. New members are still needed:

Action Items:

- Steve will send an announcement notice to MassBike Executive Director Dorie Clark.
- Greg will contact Brickbottom and the MassBike listserv.
- Bhupesh will contact Independent Fabrications and The Ride magazine.
- Ron will contact Redbone's

PSAs need to be sent to the Somerville Journal, Somerville News, Boston Globe City Weekly. SBC members can spread the word as well.

5. Bicycle parking ordinance - Steve suggested the ordinance might wait until city zoning is revised. Ron said there is no reason to wait. Bhupesh recommended the ordinance be submitted to the Aldermen; if zoning re-do is fast tracked, the ordinance can be incorporated into it. Bhupesh will talk to Eamon in the Planning Dept., then to Ald.-at-Large Denise Provost about having her introduce the ordinance, get 10 + signatures, and Ald. Bill Roach. Deadline is the Board of Aldermen meeting, 3rd. week of August.

6. Assembly Square - Bhupesh presented a draft letter that was intended to go to the Planning Board, but was not sent due to the need for the SBC to review it first. A re-written letter will be consistent with the draft of the proposed bicycle parking ordinance. Ron suggested referring to the way racks were placed at the Porter Sq. Shopping Center. Greg noted there was no mention of changing facilities/showers in the letter. Bhupesh replied that building use (showers), and parking were separate issues. The Committee felt it was important to include a reference to bike facilities in buildings, and a new draft letter was approved. The Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary) will work on a policy to deal with issues that come up between regular SBC meetings that demand an SBC response.

7. Street repaving - Phase 1 of the city's street repaving program was reviewed; no action is needed as they are almost all side residential streets. Ron will do a site visit to the Vernon St. Studios to determine if a bike ring can be installed on the sidewalk. Phase 2 of the program will be examined at the next or future meeting.

8. Other business

A. Davis Sq. crossing - Steve met with Todd Blake regarding the proposed design for crossing around the so-called "statue park"/plaza at the center of the square. **MOTION:** 5 for, 1 abstention- to have the SBC sign on to a letter drafted by Bhupesh, writing for himself, to MassHighway presenting his ideas for the crossing.

B. Zoning Board of Appeals - is meeting Wed. July 21. Bhupesh asked to present a letter of introduction to the ZBA from the SBC to include the SBC Mission Statement and a draft of the route map. **MOTION:** passed unanimously.

C. MBTA abandoned bike policy - a draft policy drawn up by the MBTA was passed around. Joel asked if the T was planning to post policy signs at racks in stations. Jim G. and Steve will meet and follow up on this with the T.

D. Davis Sq. on-road routing - Greg, Jim, and Dereck will have a mapped routing for the next meeting.

E. Environmental liability at Clyde/Warwick property - Alan is trying to get the report on what kind of environmental cleanup will be required before any development can happen.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

The next SBC meeting is Tuesday, August 24, City Hall, basement lounge.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Palmer, Secretary