

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

Denise Provost,

Todd Blake,

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, August 24, 2004, City Hall

ATTENDEES Ron, Greg, Jim G., Alan (arrived late), Steve, Joel Bennett- Friends of the
Community Path. Guests: Dereck Mangus, Peter Coyle

1. Minutes approved - Ron Newman, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Clarifications to the July 2004 minutes were submitted; as a quorum was not present, the minutes were not approved.

2. City Report - Steve Winslow

A. Community Path - Phase 1, Cedar St. to Central St., is in the 2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which runs from Oct. 2006-Sept. 2007. The support letter (see July '04 minutes) from Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) still has not been received; after Labor Day, Steve will follow up with CHA and the Mayor's Office. Ron asked if Vollmer Assoc. is still involved. Steve said yes, until they present the 100% design. Another public meeting will be held by MassHighway (MHD). Ron asked if the MBTA files to abandon the Cedar to Lowell freight track; Steve replied that Guilford does this. He said that the city requested a lease of the T-owned land from Cedar to a point near Woodbine St., and that an optimistic reply was received.

Phase 2, School St. to North Point, Cambridge: Vollmer Assoc. has signed a contract to design the next section. The city is also applying for a MassPike tourism grant of \$40,000 to fund a landscape design/art competition for this section of the path. Greg suggested, and the Committee agreed, that instead of limiting it to just Phase 2, use part of the grant to design art concepts for the entire route, while still making specific proposals for Phase 2.

B. Somerville/Cambridge/Belmont path improvements - The project is in the 2006 TIP (Oct. 2005-Sept. 2006).

C. Streets, repaving, also rack - Steve is trying to get a post and ring bike rack for the sidewalk outside the Vernon St. studios. He also suggested that when School St. is repaved from Medford St. to Highland Ave., that a bicycle "climbing lane" be striped. Greg said that in the recent past it was suggested that this short stretch of the street be converted to 2-way from 1-way. A subcommittee consisting of Greg, Steve, Jim G. will meet with Todd Blake to identify options.

D. Assembly Square/Main Street - Steve said getting the bicycle parking ordinance will help with street design issues. An update from Bhupesh is needed.

E. Bond Bill, Mystic River - Money for the Amelia Earhart Dam crossing is included in the state transportation bond bill. Ron asked about the plans for extending the river path from Draw 7 Park to Rte. 99 in Charlestown. Steve will call Dan Driscoll, DCR planner for an update. He also mentioned that the bond bill includes language for tort liability for rail trails that shifts liability from the MBTA to cities and towns. This should make it easier to build the Community Path. Peter asked about bicycle education in the Registry of Motor Vehicles driver handbook. Steve said it was in the bond bill, vetoed by the governor, then overridden by the legislature.

F. Active Living by Design - Steve is meeting with the police safety officer, in addition to Lt. Paul Upton, the police traffic safety coordinator, about safe routes to schools.

G. Traffic and Parking Dept. - Capt. Robert Bradley has been appointed acting director of T&P. Charlie O'Brien has been named as DPW engineer, taking over from Joan Lastovica, who has left city employment.

3. Membership - Dereck Mangus's nomination has been confirmed by the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Appointments. It now goes to the full Board for approval.

4. Tour de Somerville - The 12th. Tour is set for Saturday, October 16. Greg, Ron, and Dereck will be the Tour subcommittee.

5. Leash law - Alan said the leash law is not being enforced in the city. A recent "Speak Out" in the Somerville Journal described the Community Path as a "toilet" from dogs being let loose. Greg said he'd contact Janice Zazinski, who recently moved to Somerville from Roslindale, where she was active with dog owners, about the issue of dogs in parks.

6. Davis Sq. crossing - Dereck presented the On-Road Route plotted by the subcommittee. Joel mentioned that at present, riding in the MBTA busway is technically illegal. Steve said the city wouldn't post signs there, but at the statue park/plaza instead. Joel asked about including getting an opening in the Grove St. gate to allow street access. Greg suggested that the block of Grove St. from Morrison Ave. to Winslow St. is another candidate for returning to 2way status. No further action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next SBC meeting is Tuesday, September 28, City Hall, basement lounge.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Palmer, Secretary