



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 2010
MINUTES
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives

Brian Postlewaite, Chairman
Charles Denison, Vice Chairman
Enid Kumin
Alex Epstein
Jim Gallagher
Alan Moore
Ron Newman
Steve DaSilva

Ex-Officio

Janice Delory, Office of the Mayor
Bob Trane, Board of Aldermen
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking
Kathleen Ziegenfuss, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
Acting Chief Michael Cabral, Police Department

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday November 9, 2010, 7:00 pm, City Hall
Community Representatives in attendance: Brian Postlewaite (chair), Enid Kumin, Jim Gallagher, Ron Newman, Alex Epstein, Alan Moore
Ex-Officio members in attendance: Kathleen Ziegenfuss
Guests in attendance: Lauren Clayton, Scott Clark, Ken Carlson, Tim Talun, Lauren Parker, Jeremy Mendleson

Procedural Business:

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

Brian asked everyone to introduce themselves and describe their last recreational ride.

1. **Secretary:** Jim Gallagher volunteered to serve as secretary.
2. **Membership:**
 - Steve DaSilva has resigned by sending a letter to the Mayor. The Mayor needs to send an acknowledgment letter and then Steve will be officially off the committee. He will still volunteer to help with some tasks like the web site.
 - Ken Carlson and Tim Talun have applied to be members. The current members voted unanimously to recommend to the Mayor that they be accepted as members.
 - Kathleen talked to Dan of Dutch Bicycle about possibly becoming a business member. He will try to attend future meetings. Dutch Bike has been very helpful with the SomerStreets events.
3. **Approve Minutes:**
 - There was a discussion about the process for distributing minutes. It was decided to send the draft minutes to all members and guests present. After edits and final approval by the members the final version will be posted on the web site.

- With a quorum of members present, the meeting minutes for March, May, June, July, August, September, and October were approved, with corrections. Kathleen will make the corrections and post the minutes online.
- Enid promised to update the SBC mailing list and send the names to all.

Infrastructure:

1. Sharrows and Bike Lanes

- The question was asked if the reconstruction of Beacon Street can be moved up from its currently scheduled FY 2013. The designs are not currently ready and it will take time to advertise for a designer and to complete the process. Changes to the scheduled time will also need to go through the MPO's TIP process, and there may not be money available before 2013.
- The next question was can there be some repaving of Beacon as an interim step. Beacon and Park is one area where the pavement is particularly bad. The need for repairs was also mentioned in the first Annual Report – a list of areas in need of repaving was included. Somerville Ave and Prospect St was another area of need mentioned.
- Alex volunteered to gather comments. The Google map we previously used is still live and can be used to post comments. Alex will send the links to all. We also agreed to try to give a list of needed locations and comments for the Annual Meeting with City Departments so that there will be time to schedule repavings in 2011. We will compile the list and vote on it at the December meeting.
- On Washington Street repaving has been completed and striping will be done in the next few weeks. The City is working with Boston to extend the bike lanes all the way to Sullivan Square (not expected to be striped until next year).

The City Communication Director, Michael Meehan, dropped by to introduce himself. He said the city may be having weekly bike rides starting in the spring.

- 2. Somerville Ave Bike Lane Parking:** On Somerville Avenue the City has begun enforcing the No Parking restrictions that are signed on the eastbound side between Dane and School Streets. No vehicles have been observed parking in the bike lanes there lately.
- 3. Community Path: Cedar to Lowell Update**
 - The MBTA Board approved a 99 year lease for all the paths in Somerville, including the Cedar to Lowell section. The design RFP should be out soon. The final design needs to be completed and the project needs to be advertised for construction by the end of September 2011.
 - A need for better signs at Somerville Junction Park was also mentioned. Right now people on Central St don't know the park is there. We should add this to the initiative in the Annual report. Ron will forward ideas to Brian. He also asked about the status of Phase 2 (Phase 1 is the current park), which was supposed to expand into some of the currently underutilized parking lot.
- 4. City On-Street Bike Parking Program:** Information is available on the City website, but so far no businesses have expressed interest. Kathleen will send the link to the SBC list. Members can volunteer to talk to businesses but we need to coordinate our efforts so they don't get multiple contacts. Any changes must go through the Traffic and Parking Commission and would probably happen in the spring.
- 5. Bike parking at Market Basket on Somerville Avenue:** The City is aware of the problems with the current bike parking and with bike parking on the fence around the Milk Row cemetery. The Historical Preservation Committee is talking with the owners about solutions. Alex has prepared a letter with suggested solutions. The SBC voted to send a revised letter to the Mayor, with a copy to the Historic Commission with the suggestions.
- 6. Intersection experiment:** We skipped this item since Charlie Denison wasn't at the meeting.

Education and Outreach:

1. **Maps:** The maps subcommittee met before the regular SBC meeting. They decided to use a Somerville Parks map template – the City has the base map. The idea is to show recommended bicycling routes for a good 15 year-old rider. There will be another subcommittee meeting to mark up a map for SBC discussion. There may also be an online map developed.
2. **Bike/ped safety campaign:** Still going through Board of Aldermen approval process.
3. **Distribution of safety campaign materials:** Printing postcards will cost 20 cents each, too expensive to mail to all residents. The mailing for the annual city census can have a small box with an explanation of sharrows. Kathleen will prepare a draft for the next meeting.
4. **SBC Banner:** Kathleen had several revised versions of the banner, in 3 colors and general agreement on their suitability.. She will print a full size black and white version for the next meeting.
5. The October bike/pedestrian count data should be up on the website soon.
1. **Images:** Bike-related images can be uploaded through our current web site using Picasa.

Events:

1. The final SomerStreets event was successfully held on Somerville Avenue on October 24.

New Business:

1. **Annual Report:** Kathleen presented a proposed outline, based on last year's report. There are copies of last year's report on the SBC website. Everyone agreed to review the outline and give Brian comments and proposed new initiatives, with a paragraph description, in time for the next meeting. The new paving initiative discussed under Infrastructure above is one, Ken suggested an “educational tabling” one. We will look to have a draft to review before the December meeting, then discuss and approve it there.
2. **SBC Volunteers:** We would like to expand the pool of volunteers, and the mailing list about SBC activities. We decided on one list for SBC members only, and another SBC associates group through Google Groups.
3. “Illuminated” Bike Tour: Brian asked to gauge interest in a bike tour to follow the annual Somerville “Illuminations” tour of decorated houses. This year's tour will be December 18. The bike tour would follow the same route as the buses, only on bicycles. Let Brian know if interested.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 21, 2010, at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gallagher, Acting Secretary