



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 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
Ken Carlson
Tim Talun

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 December 21, 2010, 7:00 pm, City Hall

Community Representatives in attendance: Brian Postlewaite (chair), Charles Denison (vice chair) Jim Gallagher, Ron Newman, Alan Moore, Ken Carlson, Tim Talun

Ex-Officio members in attendance: Kathleen Ziegenfuss

Guests in attendance: Lauren Clayton, Scott Clark, Jeremy Mendelson, Liz Powers

Procedural Business:

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

Brian asked everyone to introduce themselves. Jim Gallagher continued to serve as acting secretary.

1. **Membership:** Ken Carlson and Tim Talun have been appointed members.
2. **Ex-Officio voting rights:** Kathleen has been advised that Ex-Officio members cannot vote, and do not count against the quorum. We were also reminded that all current members were renewed for a term of 2 years in 2010.
3. **Approve Minutes:** The November minutes were approved with a few corrections.
4. **Leave Coverage:** Andrew Amey will cover for the Transportation Division while Kathleen is on maternity leave.

LIFT Bike Program: Liz Powers, a volunteer at the LIFT program, gave us an overview of the program. They provide refurbished bikes to low-income clients so that they can get to jobs. Last year they distributed 15 bikes, with helmets and locks. They have an office in Somerville as well as Cambridge. Last year they got abandoned bikes from the Cambridge DPW. A Harvard group, Quad Bike, did the refurbishing, LIFT bought the needed parts.

LIFT does not need money for helmets and locks, but they do need bikes and help fixing them. Members recalled that Somerville Police auctioned off some abandoned bikes last year. They had several hundred, but they should still have some left. The City will take abandoned bikes if reported. The local universities, particularly Tufts, were also suggested as sources.

There was also a suggestion to have a bike donation day at one of the Somerville farmers markets, probably Union Square. Ken and Jeremy volunteered to help.

Infrastructure:

1. **Union Square Repaving:** Union Square bike lanes will be a priority in 2011. Paving had been planned for 2009, finally happened this fall. No bike lanes and sharrows so far, but 2011 is a possibility. We don't yet have the list of streets scheduled for repaving in 2011. We should deal with need for lanes and sharrows on them as part of 2011 Initiatives.
2. **McGrath Bike Lanes:** We asked about the possibility of restriping McGrath Highway from I-93 to the Cambridge line to include bike lanes. MassDOT controls this portion of the roadway. New District 6 is in charge and we could contact them. Kathleen informed us that MassDOT is about to start on a “de-elevation” study of McGrath that will take 1 to 1.5 years. We don't want to do anything to jeopardize the study outcome. The City will investigate whether MassDOT has any interim plans for paving and stripping in the area.
3. **Community Path, Cedar to Lowell update:** The RFP is out and responses have been received. The intent is to have a consultant on-board by early January. There was discussion on whether SBC should have a role in consultant selection, as we have in the past. We decided the City now has sufficient knowledgeable staff and it was important that this happen quickly, so the SBC will not ask to participate.
4. **On-street bike parking program:** We developed a list of business to contact and volunteers to contact them. Ron (True Grounds), Ken (Petsi's Pies), Tim (the Independent, Foundry), Jeremy (Sherman's and Precinct). Friend of committee Lauren Parker knows people at the Diesel and Bloc 11 and we will contact her to see if she can help.
5. **Bike parking at Market Basket:** No update
6. **Intersection experiment:** We identified several possible locations for the possible experiment to cover signals at an intersection – Davis Square, the Somerville Ave/Beacon Street/Mossland Avenue group, and the area between Powderhouse Square and Ball Square. All the entering roadways need to have roughly comparable volumes, and there needs to be neighborhood support. The project will not involve large infrastructure changes, mostly just signs and striping. Charlie will write a memo for the SBC meeting with the Department heads on why we should do this, to be reviewed by a subcommittee including Scott, Lauren, Jim, Jeremy, and Brian.

Education and Outreach:

1. **Annual Report:** Kathleen put together the outline and Brian will send out a draft for the committee's review. Please comment by January 1. Either email changes or track changes in Word or use Google docs.
2. **2011 Initiatives:** There were 6 initiatives in last year's annual report, and 6 potential ones for 2011 were suggested. We need detailed proposals for a vote at the next SBC system, so everyone will provide drafts by January 11. The six proposals for 2011 and those who will develop the details
 - develop a program with police to encourage bicyclists to use lights at night (Alex)
 - develop a bicycle wayfinding network (Brian/Jeremy/Scott)
 - institute a program to include bicyclist need for good pavement as a criteria in selecting roads for repaving (Alex)
 - submit application to LAB for bicycle-friendly city designation (Ken/Charlie)
 - include a cycle street in the Beacon Street design (Charlie/Alan)
 - organize a signal-free intersection demonstration (#6 under Infrastructure, Charlie/Brian)
3. **Bike/ped safety campaign:** No update
4. **Distribution of safety campaign flyers:** Kathleen distributed a sharrow explanation insert to be included in the citywide census. A few edits for language were made and a different sharrow image, from MUTCD will be inserted.
5. **"I Bike Somerville" T-Shirt:** No update
6. **SBC Banner:** Kathleen brought an updated version of the banner. Everyone agreed it looked great.
7. **Bike infrastructure page in website:** There is a new page on the Somerville web site – Kathleen will send the link, and it will be connected to the SBC site. Kathleen asked for feedback on the guide for developers on installing bike racks.
8. **Mapping update:** The maps subcommittee met before the regular SBC meeting, working on a draft. There is good progress. There were more suggested improvements and an updated map will be available at the next SBC meeting. Andrew will be taking over for Kathleen while she is out. We suggested that the map include areas where bikes are not allowed on sidewalks.

Events:

1. **Illuminations Bike Tour:** Very successful. 40 to 80 riders participated. We should do it again next year.
2. **October Bike and Ped Counts:** There was an event last week to present the results. The presentation is on the web site and Excel/GIS files are available if someone wants them. Among the observations: weather affects bikes more than pedestrians, bicyclists decreased from the Spring to the Fall, but the decrease was less where there was new infrastructure, particularly sharrows.
3. **Spring Historical tour:** May 15 or 22. Industrial Somerville is a possible theme. We could also help to organize a Mystic River ride.

New Business:

1. **Community Path redesign at Rite Aid:** Contrary to rumor, no change in design is planned.
2. **City Bike Lane Ordinance Revisions:** Will discuss at January SBC meeting.
3. **Interdepartment meeting:** Probably in February.
4. **Bike-Friendly City designation:** Andrew will work on application.
5. **Walk-Friendly Community designation:** Haven't applied yet, probably in June.
6. **Bike Share Update:** MAPC has a new vendor, Alta, which runs the DC program. Boston is still taking the lead in setting it up here. Somerville can receive some of the funds that the MBTA received.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 18 21, 2011, at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gallagher, Acting Secretary