



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 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 Alderman
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking
Kathleen Ziegenfuss, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
Acting Chief Cabral, Police Department

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday October 19, 2010, 7:00 pm, City Hall

Community Representatives in attendance: Charles Denison (chair), Enid Kumin, Jim Gallagher, Ron Newman

Ex-Officio members in attendance: Kathleen Ziegenfuss

Guests in attendance: Lauren Clayton, Scott Clark, Ken Carlson, Tim Talon, Julia Malik, Jonah Petrie, Lauren Parker

Procedural Business:

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

1. **Secretary:** There is no current secretary. Jim Gallagher served the first of his four volunteered sessions as acting secretary.
2. **Chair:** Charlie Denison served as chair for this meeting.
3. **Membership:**
 - o Steve DaSilva has not been able to make the meetings lately and will resign as a member. That should help with getting a quorum, which is one more than half the members.
 - o Kathleen is still checking with the City Attorney on whether she counts as a voting member. For now we are assuming she is not.
 - o There were not enough members present for a quorum, so no minutes were approved.
 - o One of the guests asked how to become a member. Letter of interest, recommendation by Committee, Mayor appoints, Aldermen must approve. Interested residents can also get on mailing list, volunteer to help on tasks.
 - o The question was asked what the Committee does. The main focus is on education, two annual rides, review and comment on plans and policies, and advise on City bike standards.
 - o We are still trying to get a bike-related company to participate as a member.
 - o To Do: Steve DaSilva needs to follow the administrative procedures to formally resign.
4. **Approve minutes** – Not approved since quorum not present.
5. **Next meeting** – due to a conflict the next meeting was moved to Tuesday November 9, 2010.

Infrastructure:

1. Sharrows and Bike Lanes
 - Somerville Avenue issues – Ron noted that the eastbound section between Dane and School Streets has an area where the painted bike lane is adjacent to a striped area that is too narrow for cars to park, but cars are frequently parked there. Signs appear to indicate that parking is allowed. Kathleen indicated that if this is the case, the City will wait until it takes back the roadway from MassDOT (after the project is officially completed) to make adjustments. Right now any ticketing is problematic. Will check back at next meeting. Other changes may be useful on Somerville Ave after more observations on how things are working.
 - 10 miles of new bike routes were done in 2010, next maybe 11 in 2011. Beacon Street reconstruction on the TIP for 2013. Somerville Ave east of Union Square could be done next year – SBC would like a lane rather than sharrows.
2. Community Path Cedar to Lowell Update – the City is close to issuing the RFP to get design to 100%. Also close to securing a 99 year lease on that section with MBTA.
3. MAPC bike parking program update – 50 more Powderhouse inverted U-racks will be ordered and available for spring 2011 installation.
4. On-Street Bike Parking Program – there is an announcement now on the City website for businesses to express an interest in “bike corral” parking in spaces near their establishments (estimated installation: spring, 2011). There was a suggestion for temporary racks for farmers markets and other events, open studios, etc. There has been a problem with bike locked to fences at open studios.
5. Bike Parking at Market Basket – need for parking to replace existing, but the normal spaces on the sidewalks will be too far from front doors to be useful. The Somerville Historic Commission also has an interest in a solution since some are parking bicycles on new fences surrounding the Milk Row cemetery.
6. Bike Share Program – MBTA has received a \$3 million grant for the regional bike share program. MAPC has released a new RFP for a regional program.
7. Infrastructure experiment – Charlie suggested a local experiment to cover an existing set of signals (along with appropriate signs) to slow traffic and allow drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians to negotiate their way through. This is the shared streets concept which has been tried elsewhere. There was general support for the idea, with a decision to develop a more detailed proposal for 2011. Charlie will work on this – several others volunteered to help – and any additional members interested should contact him.
8. Other infrastructure issues – problems with buses in bike lanes and cars parking in bus stops were raised. Anyone seeing a car parked in a bus stop can call the City's 311 line to report (also 617-666-3311). It was decided to invite Eric Scheier from the MBTA to a future meeting to talk about MBTA bus issues. Kathleen announced that the MBTA will be putting a bike cage at the Davis Station at the east headhouse, and a 2-tiered covered set of racks at the west headhouse.

Education and Outreach:

1. Maps -Josh (intern) is working on maps of bike routes in Somerville. These maps will be similar in style to the parks and walking maps. Members also suggested a crowd-sourced map, which can be updated constantly. An email was recently circulated about an MAPC effort. There was support for both an on-line and paper maps, as they have different uses and serve different markets. The Syracuse NY bike map was given as an example of a good paper map. A map subcommittee was formed. Kathleen, Ken, Lauren P, Ron, Tim, and Scott all volunteered to participate.
2. Website update – Steve is still willing to update the website as needed. More biking pictures were requested. Kathleen will ask Steve to set up a Flickr account as well
3. Bike/ped safety campaign – this proposed campaign is being reviewed by the Aldermen. SBC can help to distribute materials later.
4. Distribution of safety campaign materials – Kathleen investigating whether a postcard/flyer explaining sharrows can be included in the annual parking permit mailing.

5. "I Bike Somerville" T-shirts – still investigating whether or not the SBC can sell "I Bike Somerville" T-shirts directly. There may also be local vendors that would like to sell them.
6. SBC Banner – Kathleen had a new version of the banner, based on past comments. There were comments about the graphics and general agreement on the design. Another/final (?) version should be ready for the next meeting.

Events:

1. October Bike and Pedestrian counts – all 36 locations done over two weeks in Oct. Will probably continue with 2 weeks in May. Very successful. Will announce results at a more public event.
2. Bike/Walk Summit, October 7 Providence, RI – Kathleen talked about data collection methods at conference.
3. Moving Together Conference, October 13, MassDOT – focused on new green DOT policies.
4. Ride with the Mayor - rescheduled to Monday, October 18 – 3.5 mile ride to show off new bike facilities citywide.
5. Tour de Somerville, October 16 – Paths, Present and Future: A Mystic River Ramble. 75-80 riders. Saw many new bike/ped facilities under construction. Route was challenging because of some narrow paths, some dirt sections and difficult curb cuts. Suggested that for next ride there be more information about SBC, biking in Somerville available at start or mid-point of ride.
6. The final SomerStreets event will be on Somerville Avenue on October 24. The section from Union Square to Beacon Street will be closed from noon to 4 PM. There will be a bike parade and family-friendly events.

Miscellaneous:

- It's about time to start work on the Annual Report. Kathleen will bring a proposed report outline to the November meeting and members can volunteer to help writing some sections at that time.
- A suggestion was made that the SBC might want to have an annual public meeting where we publicize the annual report and talk about accomplishments of the last year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 9, 2010, at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gallagher, Acting Secretary