

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE
Joseph A. Curtatone
Mayor

Alan Moore, Chair
Peter Coyle, Vice Chair
Greg Palmer, Secretary

Jim Gallagher
Minona Heaviland
Ron Newman
Doris Schartel

Janice DeLory, Office of the Mayor
Police Dept.
Dept. of Public Works

Bob Trane, Board of Aldermen
Traffic and Parking Dept.

Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, June 20, 2006, City Hall

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Alan, Peter, Greg, Ron, Doris, Steve
GUESTS: Brian Postlewaite, Michele Biscoe

1. Minutes - Alan called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm. The May meeting minutes were approved.

2. New members - Minona Heaviland and Doris Schartel have been sworn in as members of the Committee

3. Meeting with the mayor - Alan and Steve met with Mayor Curtatone to discuss bicycle issues. The mayor wants to hear about significant infrastructure changes, for now, before they are implemented. An example would be new pavement markings such as the sharrows proposed for School Street. He also encouraged the SBC to be proactive with suggestions and proposals. Steve will forward a communication to the mayor that the departments of Public Works, Traffic and Parking, and Police, need to submit names of individuals to serve as SBC representatives for their respective offices. Steve also suggested that bicyclists and pedestrians be represented on the Traffic Commission. Greg suggested that Steve, as the city's Bike/Ped coordinator, is the logical choice.

Enforcement: Alan suggested that an education insert be included when parking permit applications are mailed out. Ron noted that there aren't any "No Riding on Sidewalks" signs or stencils in Union Square, in response to Ward 3 Alderman Tom Taylor's inquiry about sidewalk riding. Peter will contact Traffic and Parking to find out when sign installation and stenciling will be done there.

Safe Routes to Schools: the Superintendent of Schools should be contacted directly.

Community Path: the mayor will continue his support of the path extension and work to resolve issues.

4. MaxPak site - Alan and Steve met with the developers, have seen some preliminary development concepts, and emphasized that there needs to be at least one way to access the Path from the site, it must be wide enough for both bicycles and pedestrians if it is a shared path, and it must connect with the project's road system. He also reported that KSS, the developers, asked if the SBC could write a "letter of support".

After some discussion, Ron made a MOTION, amended: "a document shall be drafted outlining guidelines for bicycle and pedestrian access to, from, and through developments adjoining the Community Path extension". Passed unanimously.

5. Off-leash dog areas - Michele Biscoe, chair of Som-Dog, a dog owners advocacy group, described how her group is working with the city and residents to create more off-leash dog runs. From an initial list of eight potential sites in Wards 5 and 6, three areas were selected for further study, along the Community Path between Grove and Cedar. The Willow Ave. area is too small; Cedar St. has flooding and plantings issues; Lexington Ave., adjacent to the playground has enough room, but neighborhood concerns must be addressed. Greg mentioned that dog run entrances should be kept away from the path to avoid collisions with path users. Ron suggested that SBC members visit all three sites and give feedback at the July Committee meeting.

6. June wrap up -

SCAT: Greg said that cable access talk show was a success, and we should do TV again.
BIKE BREAKFAST: 15 cyclists stopped by The Broken Yolk; Peter would like to see more places next year along with more advance publicity.
BIKE TOUR OF HISTORIC SOMERVILLE: Ron reported that more than 50 riders began the tour; for next year, there should be more advance planning, better police coordination, and riding rules explained before the ride start.

7. DPW meeting - from Steve's City Report:

"Greg...[and Steve] met with Mike Buckley of DPW to discuss road maintenance issues. Mike explained that he has been working with crews to fix potholes better and would like to get a small infrared patch machine that will result in better fixes. That the Bike Committee and the Safe START program could both support that effort."

Also: Bike lane stencils have been repainted on Washington St. between Inner Belt Rd. and the railroad overpass. The street may be resurfaced this September.

8. MHD path improvements: Davis Square - Steve presented the 75% design plans for the Davis Square area. The Committee made the following comments about the busway section:

- the 2.6 meter [8 foot] widened sidewalk was too narrow for mixed bicycle and pedestrian/foot traffic
- a proposed barrier between the busway and the sidewalk could catch bike pedals- more details needed
- bike racks should be relocated closer to the College Ave. headhouse of the subway station
- there should be no net loss of trees removed for construction
- there is potential bike-ped conflict at the busway "crossover" near the College Ave. headhouse
- the College Ave. crossing to the busway doesn't match the "desire line" for bicycle movement.

Alan asked if the path could be located next to the office building along the busway. Steve replied that there is not enough room, and tree roots would be affected. Alan was also wondering if the T employee parking on the busway is necessary.

Over on the Holland Street side, Steve said that a raised crosswalk near the Somerville Theatre is planned, even though the designs didn't show it.

Greg asked that a request be made to MassHighway to have a bicycle trail planner review the Davis Square plans.

Steve will take the plans to a future meeting, probably in September, of the Davis Square Task Force.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 15, at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Palmer, Secretary