



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 2011 Minutes
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

Alex Epstein, Chairman

Charles Denison, Vice Chairman

Brian Postlewaite

Enid Kumin

Jim Gallagher

Alan Moore

Ron Newman

Ken Carlson

Tim Talun

Ex-Officio:

Janice Delory, Office of the Mayor

Bob Trane, Board of Alderman

Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works

Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking

Chief Pasquarello, Police Department

Sarah Spicer, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development

(Bold italics = in attendance)

Day/Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Location: City Hall, basement employee lounge

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM.

Procedural Business:

1. Guest introductions: Patrick, Lauren Clayton, Jeremy Mendelson (residents), Amanda Kersey (Somerville Patch)
2. Membership update
 - a. Membership currently pending for Jeremy Mendelson.
3. Approve Minutes: November 2011
 - a. Edits were made to the November minutes google document that were not picked up in the final document. It was agreed in future to edit just one google document. November minutes to be resubmitted for approval at January meeting.

Events:

1. Illuminations Bike Ride--review (Brian)

Ron provided a summary of the ride. It was generally agreed that this was a very successful event. There were around 80 riders at the start, more than attended last year despite colder temperatures. There were a few suggestions for next year:

- Provide more publicity on the need for warm clothing.
- Explore splitting ride into two groups, one fast and one slow. Some complained they were cold while waiting for the group to catch up.
- Explore having a shorter group tour, and a longer self guided tour.
- It was helpful having an officer along for the ride.

2. Spring ride--preliminary date planning (Ron)

Ron, the ride leader, discussed the theme of the Spring ride. He would like it to focus on "Industrial History of Somerville", but this will take a significant amount of planning which he will be unable to do alone.

- January meeting - SBC to brainstorm additional ideas for the ride
- Ride to be held on Sunday, May 20th, potentially at 1pm. This will be the capstone to National Bike Week, which is taking place the week before.
- Brian will keep eye out regarding a repeat of the bicycle expo which took place in the Armory last year.

Infrastructure:

2. Bike parking

a. Corral location suggestions (Sarah)

The city is planning on following up on its "11 in '11" campaign with a "1 in every ward" campaign, the goal of which is to distribute on street bike corrals around the city. There are three existing corrals, with 7 additional racks to be installed in 2012.

- A google map will be created and used by the committee to suggest ideas for corral locations. The potential locations will be discussed at the January meeting.
- It was noted that the racks are not available for use in private parking lots, but can be used in municipal lots if needed.

b. Bike racks located in bus stops (Jeremy)

This is not currently a major problem, but going forward bike racks should not be placed in bus stops due to potential handicap accessibility issues

c. Bike parking inventory map-- (Sarah)

Sarah is currently working on putting a master list together. This data will be geocoded. The intent is this will be for internal use, though the potential for public release was discussed. One issue is proper graphic representation, and it

was generally agreed that the density of data would not be appropriate to the google maps interface.

3. Bike facilities

a. Bow Street bike facility design (Sarah)

Current status is that this is undergoing internal preliminary discussions. When a plan is finalized it will be shared with the SBC for comment.

b. Temple Street (Sarah)

Positive feedback has been received from bikers as well as drivers.

c. Union Square infilling of bike lanes, sharrows--design update (Sarah)

Alex and Charlie to provide a sketch of a potential design.

d. T&P's bike facility proposals through July 2012--more details (Sarah)

The potential of the SBC having the ability to review repaving plans in 2012 was discussed. The consensus was that this is not likely to happen as plans are developed through DPW as the opportunity arises. Sarah will check with Resistat to get pavement conditions data.

4. Hubway status (Sarah)

Administrative work still to be done on the Hubway installation plan.

5. Community Path connections at Lowell Street (Alan)

The proposed stair with bike rails at Lowell street require review by the Architectural Access Board due to the lack of an accessible ramp. It was suggested that a letter of support for the inclusion of the stair be submitted from the SBC to the AAB.

A motion by Brian was unanimously approved that if a letter was agreeable to Alan Charlie and Alex, it could be submitted on behalf of the SBC before the next meeting as the timing of the AAB meeting is uncertain. Alan (not present) has been volunteered to write the letter. It was also suggested that someone should follow up with the local disability commission to get their support.

6. Davis Square streetscape improvements (Sarah)

Not at a stage for feedback.

7. McGrath Hwy short-term improvement recommendations (Jeremy, Sarah)

New pedestrian signals will be installed at Washington St and Somerville Ave at the McGrath Highway. The overall bridge repair project has been advertised for bid, potentially as a design/build project.

8. Repaving priorities (Sarah)

Sarah to ask Rob for the 2012 repaving plans as they become available. It was noted that everyone is extremely happy about the patching job on Evergreen Avenue.

9. Beacon Street

a. Wayfinding signs to Davis Sq via Park/Somerville

While there is merit to this idea, it does not make sense to designate an alternate route if they are not brought up to superior conditions.

Sarah to investigate cost for future discussion.

b. Cycletracks for Beacon Street reconstruction

i. Cycletracks are to be considered

ii. parking data--Alan to carry out counts

New Business:

1. Innovative practices (Lauren)

Not discussed

Policy:

1. Bicycle Plan update (Tim)

A summary of the Boston Bike Plan meeting held in October was provided. Boston has hired Toole Design to prepare a Boston Bike Plan, including an infrastructure survey and recommendations, as well as a strategic implementation plan. It is desired that Somerville explore creating a similar plan, and Tim suggested a meeting between Toole Design and the City to discuss what a bike plan entails, what is being done in Boston and what could be done in Somerville. Sarah suggested this could take place during a brown bag lunch at City Hall. If anyone knows of potential grant sources to fund the study, it was suggested to bring these to a future meeting.

2. City bike abandonment and removal policy (Ron)

The amount of time before a bike is removed needs to be verified. It would be helpful if a standard system of tagging bikes was implemented to give warning before removal. It would also be great to have a tag that would be left after removal in case bike is later sought by owner in original location.

Education and Outreach:

1. Bicycle Friendly Community signs--brainstorm locations (Sarah)

Two signs are available. The committee agreed they should be placed at Broadway at the Arlington border; Beacon St at the Cambridge border

2. Official bike map development--update (Sarah)

No updates at this time but materials are being developed.

3. Online bicycle registration via 311 website--Sarah to check on status

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.