

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE
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Dept. of Public Works
Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development

Bob Trane, Board of Aldermen
Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking

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MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, August 19, 2008, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Jim, Doris, Ron, Charlie, Brian, Alan, Enid
EX-OFFICIO: Steve

- 1&2. Minutes & Members. The Committee approved the July minutes.
3. Guests. The Committee welcomed three guests. One of these, Michael Burchardt, a civil engineer and bicyclist from Holland, attended as a guest speaker. Also present were Lauren A. Clayton, a Somerville resident with a professional interest in transportation design and safety, and Patrick Connolly, a reporter for the Somerville News. Anticipated guests from the Union Square Messenger Bike Race planning committee were unable to attend.
4. Tour de Somerville. Ron said that the next Tour was planned for Saturday, October 18, at 10:00 a.m. It will start from Seven Hills Park in Davis Square. The rain date is the next day, October 19, same place and time. The theme of the ride is Boundaries of Somerville (though the exact title may change). Enid will contact the police to ask for an escort.
5. Bike Lane Status.

The Committee discussed marking for Broadway from Powderhouse Circle to Cedar Street. What to do in the Ball Square area at Boston Avenue was of particular concern. Charlie made a motion, seconded by Jim and passed by the Committee, in favor of striping along Broadway up to Boston Avenue, then striping a right turn lane at Boston Avenue. Along Broadway, there would be two right arrows, with a bike lane symbol in front of the right arrows. Brian will check the spray paint markings before addition of the thermo paint. Steve made a motion, passed by the Committee, to suspend application of the SBC's old guidelines to striping from Powderhouse to Cedar. He made a further motion, also passed, to send development of new guidelines to sub-committee.

Charlie made a motion in favor of minimums for Powderhouse to Cedar Street striping as follows: 8 feet for parking, 5.5 feet for bike lanes, and 10.5 feet for travel lanes. As part of the same motion, Charlie proposed that the Committee approve the current Powderhouse-Cedar plan as marked up by Steve, with whatever changes deemed appropriate by Terry Smith, the City Traffic Engineer. The Committee passed Charlie's two-part motion.

Since the addition of the bike lane at Willow, there has been some congestion, particularly in the late afternoon, at the corner of Willow and Highland. Steve suggested no dashing for the bike lane starting 50 feet from the affected intersection. Charlie made a motion, seconded by Ron and passed by the Committee, that the SBC support the plan should Terry decide to implement it.

Steve said he got a memo about the design of Somerville Avenue leading up to the Cambridge city line. The design consultants are concerned about reducing the level of service there below present levels. They believe that LOS will go to D or lower with the Committee's proposed bike-lane addition. Brian, Charlie, and Steve will review the memo, arrange to meet with Bill Carlson, and report back to the Committee at the September meeting.

6. Assembly Square. Steve said that the Secretary's Certificate on the Draft EIR was out. He explained the Certificate is a response to comments on the Draft EIR. Steve will ask VHB to take another look at the site design with respect to including the path discussed by the Committee in June. A sub-committee of Steve, Charlie, and Alan will continue working on proposals for the Kensington underpass.
7. Community Path. A sub-committee of Steve, Alan and Joel (from Friends of the Community Path) will meet to develop design proposals for the Community Path at the proposed Green Line stop at Lowell Street. Alan said they will try to come up with one or two designs with a level crossing and one or two without in time for the SBC's September meeting.
8. Alewife Brook Path(s). Steve has heard from the (MA) Department of Conservation and Recreation regarding their planning efforts, which have focused on the Arlington side. DCR will be meeting with the Somerville Conservation Commission about the multi-use path(s) along Alewife Brook in the near future. A sub-committee of Steve, Charlie, and Ron will review designs and come up with recommendations to discuss with the Committee as a whole.
9. Other. Guest speaker Michael Burchardt gave a presentation on bicycle accommodations in Holland.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

To avoid a conflict with the state primary election on Tuesday, September 16, the Somerville Bicycle Committee will hold its regular meeting for the month of September one day early, on Monday, September 15, 2008 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Enid Kumin,
Secretary