

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE

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Police Dept.
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, December 9, 2008, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Peter, Jim, Ron, Charlie, Brian, Alan, Enid
GUESTS:	Lauren Clayton, Steve DaSilva, Mike Buckland
EX-OFFICIO:	Steve Winslow

1. Minutes. The Committee approved the November minutes.
2. Guests. In addition to Lauren Clayton, who has attended previously, guests at the meeting included Mike Buckland and Steve DaSilva, community members with an interest in cycling.
3. Beacon St./Somerville Ave. Bike Lane Design Issues. The Committee has provided guidance for bike lanes along Somerville Avenue from Porter Square to Beacon Street. The Committee will address bike lane issues at Union Square when the time for striping bike lanes becomes more imminent.
4. Rutherford Avenue Planning. The Committee discussed options for bike accommodations. Rutherford Avenue connects Main Street Charlestown to Sullivan Square. All will be at grade in the future. It is thought that a wide sidewalk and bike lanes will make Rutherford more of an urban boulevard. The general feeling is that the bike community and street advocate groups such as the LivableStreets Alliance, WalkBoston, MassBike, and the Institute for Human-Centered Design should agree on guidance. Another design version is due before a letter with comments from the pedestrian/bicycle community will circulate. Brian thought it would be helpful to see MA Bike's conclusion on this issue.
5. Union Square. Alan is a member of an advisory group that is reviewing vehicular movement around and through Union Square to try to improve patterns for bikes and pedestrians as well as autos. He thought that the SBC might suggest goals. Brian thought it would be a good idea to look for roads that would allow bicyclists to bypass the intersection of Webster and Prospect. He also thought that a rotary at the Webster-Prospect intersection would be disadvantageous for cyclists. Alan said he would send some draft ideas out to SBC members for comment.
6. Community Path. The City has decided to pay for a joint design of the Community Path and Green Line Extension at Lowell Street. Brian asked that, on behalf of the Bicycle Committee, Steve advocate that the City stay involved with design development and the Committee's design proposal remain on the table. It was also noted that the Friends of the Community Path are better placed than the Bicycle Committee both to get and to publicize information about the Lowell Street design.
7. Davis Square Plans. Work continues on expanding bike parking by the T headhouses and Community Path in Davis Square. The present arrangement for crossing the plaza area in the middle of Davis Square will remain the same.

8. Comprehensive Bike Plan. The Committee discussed the Somerville Bicycle Facility Design Guidance (12/16/08 version) prepared by Brian. The Committee proposed changing the contra-flow bicycle lanes section to read “permitted where *appropriately* signed,” and striking the one-way path section. Charlie made a motion to accept the Guidance as amended. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Committee noted that the document was a starting point for its bicycle facility design work and would likely evolve further in the coming months.
9. Assembly Square. Steve said he would be attending a public meeting about Assembly Square plans on December 11. He asked SBC members to get him any comments, especially regarding bike lanes and bike-related design for Foley Street and IKEA Way, as soon as possible.
10. MaxPak. Steve reported that parking for 80 bicycles is planned, 50 spaces under cover, 30 outdoors. Another 20 would go along the Community Path behind the proposed building and 10 would be near the dumpster on T property. Committee members commented that spaces should be accessible, well-lighted, and on T property, not on the Community Path. The Planning Board has a copy of the design. Ron asked about removal of the old tracks. Steve said they are so far still in place.
11. Pedestrian Crossing Signals. Steve said that he and Terry are meeting with Cambridge traffic officials to get their input on concurrent phasing. Steve will report on the outcome of the meeting.
12. Draft Bicycle Plan. Steve circulated a preliminary bike plan for comment. He said that he would be working on developing the draft bike plan with an intern over the next six months. The work is in keeping with Sergiu’s goal, a Somerville-wide transportation model, bike facility standards included.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next meeting is 7:00 p.m., January 20, 2009 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Enid Kumin,
Secretary