

# SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

**Joseph A. Curtatone**

**Mayor**

### Community Representatives

Brian C. Postlewaite, Chairman  
Charles Denison, Vice Chairman  
Enid Kumin, Secretary  
Jing Dai  
Peter Coyle  
Jim Gallagher  
Ron Newman  
Alan Moore  
Doris Schartel

### Ex-Officio

Mike Lambert, Office of the Mayor  
Bob Trane, Board of Alderman  
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works  
Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking  
Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development  
Chief Anthony Holloway, Police Department

MEETING MINUTES: Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m., City Hall

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING: Ron, Alan, Enid, Charles

EX-OFFICIO ATTENDING: Steve W.

GUESTS ATTENDING: Steve DaSilva, Lauren Clayton, Scott Clark, Alex Epstein

### PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:

1. Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.
2. Minutes: The Committee voted all in favor to approve the April 2009 meeting minutes, as amended.
3. Committee Organization:
  - Voluntary budget: Alan and Ron to forward the ArtBeat and the Bicycle Tour of Historic Somerville budget respectively, to the Somerville Bicycle Committee (SBC).
4. Membership: Steve DaSilva update (Steve W.): No update at this time.

### PROJECT UPDATES:

1. Infrastructure:
  - Somerville/Beacon Intersection: Charlie wrote letter as described in last month's minutes, and forwarded it to the mayor. (Steve W.): The letter was perceived as affective, and the go ahead to DCI will be given to design this intersection. DCI will also be designing the hotel area.
  - Magoun Square (Steve W.): There is no plan to make any changes at this time. The focus is to get the design to 100%. The design will allow the city to add bike lanes in the future. There are 14ft outside lanes, with narrowed sidewalks.
  - Layouts Proposed:
    - Schedule & budget for painting bike lanes (Steve W): The board has approved the striping budget.
    - Elm Street (Steve W.): Sharrow will be used on Elm St. and Mossland.
    - Broadway (Steve W.): Bike lanes stripes (damaged by snowplows) will be re-striped May 28<sup>th</sup>.
    - Washington St (Union to Beacon) (Steve W.): A total of 12 sharrow will be used on Washington St between Union Square and Beacon St.

- Willow Ave (Highland to Broadway) (Steve W.): There is room for a bike lane on one side of the street when it is repaved, and it will be striped with thermoplastic paint.
  - (Steve W.) Hancock St. is scheduled to be repaved, so there is potential along with Highland Road to add a bicycle facility.
  - Community Path Update, Near Davis Sq. (Steve W.): The design is near 100% complete, and should be out to bid soon. The SBC is neutral to the idea of a bike cage in this area, because of the negative impact it would have on the trees (possibly up to 8 or more would need to be removed), but the added security would be positive.
  - Community Path Update (Steve W.): Soil samples were taken in the area of a future flower garden near Lexington Park, and high traces of arsenic were found. That area is now fenced off for remediation. Also, ten foot deep test holes were dug in the Willow to Cedar section. These yielded clay all the way down, indicating that soil at this location is not good for drainage. Drainage will need to be redesigned along with lighting on the Willow to Cedar section. These are good lessons for the future Cedar to Lowell sections, so mistakes are not repeated.
2. Events:
- Bicycle Tour of Historic Somerville (Ron): Went out this past Sunday to ride and update the route. Actual stops still to be determined. Ron hopes to put up signs before the Memorial Day Parade. Enid talked to the police (Captain Devereaux) about the escort for the ride.
  - Art Beat (Alan):
    - Ron will talk to STEP, and Alan will talk to Shape Up Somerville and the Friends of the Community Path for possible interest in sharing a table.
    - Can the city make copies of the new bike map for this event?
    - Brian will provide a large presentation board of the new bike map.
3. Route Planning:
- No update
4. Education/Outreach:
- Steve D. will take up the task of distributing the new bike map to all the Somerville bike shops. Other outreach should be brainstormed as well. Steve D will send the released PDF to Steve W to make sure the city website is updated. Steve D will update www.somervillebikes.org with the new map as well.
  - Annual Report: Brian emailed the report to the SBC.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. OSPCD Bike Plan: Alan will merge the city and SBC plans together.
2. Proposed Bike Lane Ordinance: (Steve W.): New perception of the city organization is positive with respect to bike facilities.
3. Beacon Hotel Update: (Steve W.): Process is ongoing.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Alewife Sidewalk Widening (Alan): From the Cambridge line to Mystic Valley Parkway, most of the path is 10ft wide (some possibly 8ft wide). **Proposal:** Ron made a motion to communicate to the mayor that the SBC would like the path 12ft wide where possible. **Vote: All in favor.** Alan will write the letter to the mayor. The SBC was reminded that this path will be paved.
2. Alewife Access Report: **Proposal:** Enid made a motion to ask the mayor to request that Somerville be represented on the Alewife Access Committee. **Vote: All in favor.** Alan will add this request to the above letter.
3. Union Square Reconstruction: Various options for bike lanes through Union Sq. were discussed. Webster not wide enough for bike lanes and parking.
4. Other Business:
  - The Board of Alderman is asking the SBC to comment on a possible Somerville bike sharing program. Steve W. will get back to the board and discuss the program that is already being planned.
  - The Board of Alderman is asking the SBC to comment on a possible Somerville White bicycle program. Steve W. will get back to the board and discuss that this type of program has not worked very well in other places.
  - Alex made the suggestion that a 311 category for adding (or repairing) bike rings be added to the system.
  - Lauren objects to any added lanes that make a separate vehicle class. Also he objects to counter-flow lanes and bike boxes.
  - Alex commented that he observes that wide vehicle lanes lend to high vehicle speeds, and by narrowing lanes, traffic is calmed and slowed down. Also, bicycles have visibility issues, and bike lanes often make cyclists more comfortable knowing they have their own space.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY:

Item #	Action Item	Responsible
1	Send ArtBeat budget to SBC	Alan
2	Send Bicycle Tour of Historic Somerville budget to SBC	Ron
3	Talk to Shape up Somerville and Friends of the Community Path, about sharing an ArtBeat table	Alan
4	Talk to STEP, about sharing an ArtBeat table	Ron
5	Possibly put up signs for the ride before the Memorial Day Parade	Ron
6	Talk to the police about an escort for the ride	Enid
7	Provide a large presentation board of the new bike map for ArtBeat	Brian
8	Handout the new bike map to all the bike shops in Somerville	Steve D.
9	Email Steve W a reminder to update the city website with the new bike map, and to add the map to <a href="http://www.somervillebikes.org">www.somervillebikes.org</a>	Steve D.
10	Merge City and SBC bike plans together	Alan
11	Write a letter to the mayor request 12ft wide path on Alewife, and request that Somerville is represented on Alewife Access Committee	Alan
12	Respond to the Board of Alderman's requests on bike sharing and white bikes	Steve W.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. The next meeting is 7:00 p.m., June 16, 2009 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve DaSilva, Acting Meeting Minute Taker