

**SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE**

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Mayor**

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Peter Coyle, Vice Chair  
Enid Kumin, Secretary

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Charles Denison  
Jim Gallagher  
Ron Newman  
Brian Postlewaite  
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Mike Lambert, Office of the Mayor  
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                      Monday, September 15, 2008, 7:00 p.m., City Hall  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:                 Jim, Ron, Charlie, Brian, Alan, Enid  
GUESTS:                                     Lauren Clayton  
EX-OFFICIO:                                 Steve

- 1&2. Minutes & Members. The Committee approved the August minutes.
3. Tour de Somerville. Ron said that the route of the Tour (Boundaries of Somerville – exact title may change) would be about 15 miles long. Ron has contacted Dereck (Mangus) about the Tour poster. The Committee discussed details of the route and the location of the half-point. Consensus was in favor of running the route “clockwise,” ideally with a rest break at the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse (alternative: at the Winter Hill Yacht Club) and food from Redbones. Steve will contact the Boys and Girls Club about using the boathouse. Ron will check with the yacht club. Enid will check with Redbones. The police have been notified about the ride and the date (and raindate).

4. Somerville Community Path Issues.

Alan provided sketches reflecting discussions that he and Charlie had had about possible designs for the Community Path at the proposed Green Line stop at Lowell Street. Alan also distributed a two-page document outlining a strategy for the Path going forward, including coordination with plans for the Green Line extension.

Committee members expressed strong interest in seeing the extension of the Path and the Green Line built at the same time. It was thought that the Committee could best contribute to this happening by preparing a letter to go to the Mayor and the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. The letter would suggest asking the (MA) Executive Office of Transportation for advice on how to bring about coordinated construction of the Path and Green Line extension. The request for advice from EOT would offer some ideas as to how to proceed -- including ideas about help vis-à-vis finding or applying for additional funding that the City might provide. At a minimum, the Committee wanted to ensure that Green Line extension construction would reflect Somerville interests (*i.e.*, would not preclude construction of the Path according to the design preferences of Somerville community groups and municipal officials).

Jim and Alan volunteered to write two letters to the Mayor, with copies to go to Strategic Planning. The first letter would recommend that the City go to EOT with design ideas (provided in the letter) and solicit advice on coordinating construction of the Community Path and Green Line extension. The second would address estimated costs of constructing the Community Path at Lowell Street as proposed. Committee members will each review Community Path materials (design sketches and strategy) and try to piece together a plan for the Community Path for discussion at the October meeting. Means of getting into the proposed station and from the lower to the upper level are of particular concern.

5. Bike Lanes

Striping is in place from Powderhouse Circle to Cedar Street with slight width adjustments relative to the Committee's recommendations (narrowing of the bike lane because actual road dimensions were different from expected dimensions).

Steve reported that stenciling – six bike stencils, with “only” -- was scheduled along Beacon Street and Broadway for Wednesday, September 17; on the same date, sharrows were scheduled for Beacon Street near Oxford Street, by Kent Street, and by the Academy of Sciences.

There have been bike accidents at Beacon and Oxford in the last few weeks. Terry Smith (City traffic engineer) thinks that the dashed marking used in Ball Square at Broadway and Boston Avenue might help. Suggestions included adding hatching or a virtual island at Beacon and Oxford, but committee members also thought that a solid line on Beacon from wherever the first legal parking space is located might work. Steve said that he and Terry would try out the latter approach on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Steve said the City is still working on funding for proposed East Somerville bike lanes.

Jim and others commented that there are still a few problems at the approach from Willow Avenue on the one way side to Highland Avenue. This is despite some modification of lane markings there last month. Members thought cyclists and drivers might still be adjusting to changes. Alan suggested, and others concurred, that the Committee should watch the intersection for another month before considering additional tweaking.

Steve, Charlie and Brian have worked on issues around striping for bicycles at the intersection of Beacon Street and Somerville Avenue. The latest DCI/MHD traffic analysis shows loss of service for this intersection going from “F” to “worse F” (best is “A”) with previously considered bicycle striping. Steve, however, has noticed that if DCI (responsible for design) narrows traffic travel lanes at the end of Beacon, it will be feasible to keep an extra lane for motor vehicles and add a bike lane. Steve will call Bill Carlson (DCI) about this, then relay whatever DCI says to Terry Smith. Steve will ask the appropriate City officials to advocate with MA Highway for the SBC's recommendations for bicycle striping at Somerville Avenue and Beacon. In addition to a bike lane, a bike box is proposed so cyclists can filter up via the bike lane when the light's red, then get ahead and turn left when the light turns green.

Steve will check about getting the sidewalk back at Lombardi Way, per the Committee's discussion in August.

5. Bike Lane Ordinance

Brian proposed revisions to the current Somerville Traffic Commission Rules & Regulations. The Committee agreed on three revisions, one to Section 13-6 (third sentence) and two to Section 13-7 (first and second sentences). The revisions were adopted by unanimous vote on a motion made by Steve and seconded by Charlie. Brian will get the revised ordinance language to the Somerville Traffic Commission.

6. Bicycle Facility Guidelines

Brian presented draft Somerville Bicycle Facility Guidelines for review. The Committee was unable to complete its review of the draft guidelines due to the lateness of the hour. Discussion is to continue at next month's meeting. Members are asked to send comments to Brian.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The next meeting is 7:00 p.m., October 21, 2008 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Enid Kumin,  
Secretary