

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEMBERS
Police Jim Hodgdon
Traffic & Parking Todd Blake
OHCD Tuck O'Brien
Mayor's Office Heather Rowe
Alderman Sean O'Donovan
Dept. Public Works

MEETING MINUTES Meeting held August 27, 2002

page one of two

AGENDA Announcements, City Report, Comm. Path, Subcommittees, Signage, Dooring Campaign

ATTENDEES Darren Carlton Turil Cronburg Andy Rubel Jim Gallagher.
Ron Newman Greg Palmer
Tuck O'Brien—OHCD Jim Hodgdon – Police dept Domienic Siraco-guest.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice-Chair Turil Cronburg
Darren Carlton
Jim Gallagher
Ron Newman
Chairperson Greg Palmer
Secretary Bhupesh Patel
Andy Rubel
Lars Kellogg-Stedman

1. Announcements

- Andy Rubel requested a 6-month leave of absence, which the Committee granted.
- Turil announced that Mass Bike has received funding to produce a 30-second PSA video. Mass Bike is looking for input from the bicycling community on the subject matter that should be addressed in the video.
- The committee reconvenes on September 24th. at the VNA. Guest: Dan Driscoll, MDC planner, will talk about master plans for the Alewife Brook and Mystic River parklands.

2. City Report - Tuck O'Brien

- Cambridge, Medford, and Somerville have requested CTPS (Central Transportation Planning Staff) study on Route 28 from Wellington Circle to Boston. The study will start after October 1, 2002. Copy of City comments concerning IKEA are held at city hall for public review
- OHCD requested a standard 99-year lease from the MBTA for the railroad right-of-way from Cedar to Lowell streets. The MBTA made an even better offer: 85 year lease that cannot be revoked on 90-days notice (most of the MBTA leases can be revoked with a 90 day notice).
- OHCD has also requested an easement from the VNA (Visiting Nurses Association, which runs the elder-housing facility that abuts the proposed bicycle path at Lowell street) and from Cambridge Health Associates, which owns a parking lot that abuts the proposed bicycle path at Central street.
- The state Environmental Bond Bill that includes \$1 million for "extending the Minute Man Bikeway" into Boston passed. This proposal was included by Representative Tim Toomey. The funds are to be directed to the MDC. OHCD is talking to Senator Shannon's office and the MDC to make sure that the money in the bond bill gets realized. (There is an annual spending cap for each state agency, so the appropriation of the \$1 million for the bike path must be spread over multiple years.)

3. Friends of the Community Path

- The "Spice of Life" festival is Sunday, 9/22. The "Friends" group is sponsoring a bicycle valet service again this year. They asked for volunteers from the Somerville Bicycle Committee. Darren and Jim volunteered to help

4. Subcommittee Reports

- Events Subcommittee

- i. The "Tour de Somerville" committee met. The date of the 10th annual ride is set for Saturday October 19th with a rain date of Sunday, October 20th.
- ii. The theme of the route will be "Open Space".
- iii. The committee is also considering ways to honor the 50th anniversary of the Park Sales bicycle shop, owned by Carl Razzaboni.
- iv. The "Friends of the Community Path" group will co-sponsor the ride by helping us find volunteers.
- v. Rubel offered to provide copies of "Street Smarts" and "Rubel Bike Maps" that the committee can sell before the ride and the committee can keep.

- Bike Routes Committee

- i. The city's electronic map wasn't appropriate as a base for the bike routes map. Instead, Turil drew a map and presented a draft. She's looking for feedback, and plans to have the map ready by the Tour de Somerville

- Continued....

"Advocates for Pedestrians, Bicyclists, and other environmentally sensible transportation"

- **Infrastructure Committee**
 - i. Greg will meet with Traffic and Parking on 8/30 to go over the Committee's comments on the East Broadway Streetscape Design. Turil went to a public meeting about the proposed North Point development in Cambridge, of which 6 acres are in Somerville. The project has a connection to the Community Path.
 - **Traffic Regulations Committee**
 - i. Proposed a way to resolve the difference of opinion between the committee and Traffic and Parking Dept. regarding the language of two regulations:
 - ii. Instead of specifying whether bicycles or pedestrians have the right of way on bicycle paths, the committee proposes that we remove the regulation and defer to state regulations (which give the right of way to pedestrians)
 - iii. Similarly, instead of specifying the conditions under which it is appropriate for bicyclists to ride outside bicycle lanes, the committee proposes that we remove this regulation and defer to state regulations (which does not require bicycles to ride in bicycle lanes when present).
 - **Education Committee**
 - i. In the fall, Turil will be giving after-school workshops on bike safety. She has contacted the after-school workshop coordinator for the Somerville school system.
 - **P/R Outreach Committee**
 - i. Will post advertisements for new members
 - ii. Would like to start a PR campaign to coincide with the introduction of "no bike riding" signs in the business districts.
5. **"No Bicycle Ride Signs"**
- Traffic and Parking has ordered signs that contain the wording requested by the bicycle committee. However, the order includes signs that indicate the boundaries of business districts ("Leaving Central Business District"). These signs were not requested by the bicycle committee.
 - Considerable discussion on the T&P proposal to place a no-bike riding sign in 7-Hills Park. Many in the committee feel that this is a logical extension of the Linear Park bikeway, and it leads to a large bicycle-parking area near the MBTA head house. The committee believes that any such signs will be largely ignored
 - Tuck O'Brien reminded us that Mass Highway Department (MHD) is conducting a study of the entire Linear Park bikeway from Cambridge through Davis Square to improve the confusing street crossings. Because the bicycle route in and around 7-Hills Park is part of this MHD study, and is likely to change Tuck will ask T&P to consider postponing the placement of any no-bike riding signs in this area.
 - Jim Hodgdon will talk to T&P about how the police should enforce the no-bike riding regulations: will there be ticket books that include this violation; is this considered to be a "mandatory enforcement"? He will also talk to other communities to see if/how they enforce such bans.
 - Turil will research to see if there are state regulations that prohibit motorized vehicles such as mopeds and scooters on bike paths.
6. **"Don't Get Doored Campaign"**
- The Committee will conduct a PR campaign during the last week of September. Greg and Turil are coordinating; Volunteers will hand out fliers that Turil is creating. The fliers tell bicyclists of the dangers of riding in the door zone.
7. **Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

Please notify SBC at Bhupes@msn.com of any discrepancies, within **seven days** of release date below and JLevine@ci.somerville.ma.us for any inquiries.
cc. all community and public members stated above, City of Somerville web site, and generous "active volunteers" and community subscribers

"Advocates for Pedestrians, Bicyclists, and other environmentally sensible transportation"