

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 David Dow

MEETING MINUTES Meeting held September 24, 2002

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AGENDA City Report, Comm. Path, Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change (CEUCC)
Groundwork Somerville, Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Alewife Brook Masterplan,
Events, Subcommittees, Announcements

ATTENDEES Darren Carlton Jim Gallagher Ron Newman Greg Palmer
Bhupesh Patel Domenic Siraco Dan Driscoll (Metropolitan District Commission)
Anne Phelps (Conservation Commission), Tuck O'Brien—OHCD Jim Hodgdon – Police dept
Dan Kirk-Davidoff (Somerville Commission on Energy use and Climate Change (CEUCC))

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

1. **Minutes approved** - for July 23rd meeting, July 31st special meeting, and August 27th
2. **Somerville Commission on Energy use and Climate Control** – Dan Kirk-Davidoff (Davidoff@alum.mit.edu)
 - They have to complete a "Municipal Climate Action Plan by April 2003
 - They would like to "insert" our goals into their plan and asked us to describe such goals.
 - Members, as an initial brainstorming, recommended bicycle ordinance similar to Cambridge and Watertown, shower facilities, and retroactive incentive package for "grandfathered" businesses.
 - Other Climate Action Plans for reference are Brookline, MA (visionary), and Portland, Oregon.
3. **Groundworks Somerville** – Jennifer Hill (JmHill@GroundworkSomerville.org, 617.628.9988)
 - She presented the landscape project for a waterfront area in Ten Hills.
 - The site is located at the south end of Shore Drive in the Ten Hills Neighborhood.
 - They are working with the Boys and Girls Club and will have the Mystic Housing project assist.
 - They have \$6,000 from the City of Somerville to break ground and begin the project.
 - Also, 350 flowers were donated for kids planting at the Lexington Avenue playground.
 - The next planting for "adopt a spot" will start on April 1, 2003 which is a program that provides plantings in the urban context with a specific private retail component funding the individual projects.
4. **Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)** – Dan Driscoll, project manager (Dan.Driscoll@state.ma.us)
 - He presented the **schematic** "progress" drawings for the **Alewife Brook Masterplan**
 - The Bioengineering Group of Salem is heading the project with Carol Johnson Landscape Architects as consultants. This precedent setting hierarchy is a step forward in the "process" for general river conservation.
 - The scope starts from the Mystic River and works its way down the Brook to the Minuteman Bike Trail @ Alewife station and continues to Little Pond in Belmont.
 - The primary path will probably be 10'-0" in width on the west side of Dilboy Field along the Brook. The secondary path will be located on the east side of Dilboy field adjacent Alewife Brook Parkway.
 - There will be a pedestrian crossing south of Dilboy Field into Arlington @ Fremont Street. The MDC would look to us for support for this pedestrian crossing which has neighborhood opposition in Arlington.
 - There will be no lighting on the paths since MDC policy is parkways are only open from Dawn to dusk.
 - Lighting pollution is also noted as being harmful to the Brook's ecosystem.
 - MDC will remove the fence and concrete liners in parks and will refer to paths as "pedestrian pathways" to avoid AASHATO standards for bicycling.
 - There will be opposition for the circumscribing of Little Pond by abutting neighbors and our support would be appreciated.
 - There is a possibility that an organic stabilizer rather than stonedust will be used similar to parking lots in the Minuteman National Parks and the Neponset Trail. This system is more eco-friendly and nonporous.
 - Schematic design should be completed by the Christmas holidays. Other phases will be funded sequentially.
 - **Continued...**

- MDC will have a "Request for Proposals" for the feasibility study for a comprehensive **Masterplan for Mystic River** by Christmas. The scope is from the confluence running eastward to Route 99. Funding at present consists of \$250,000 for the feasibility study plus \$80,000 from Algonquin Gas Mitigation Funds.
 - Public meeting for the Alewife Brook Masterplan will be held at Temple Beth El, 2 Concord Avenue, Belmont (Enter off Blanchard). Our support would be appreciated
5. **Enforcement of Violations**
- Cambridge enforces the illegal crossing of bicycles across red lights at intersections. Arlington and Somerville do not.
 - It is observed that outside Davis Square there is no real enforcement in Somerville.
 - **Jim Hodgdon** will check to see how Cambridge collects fines.
6. **Events**
- **Tour de Somerville** will take place on schedule. Lars presented the flyer. Notes concerning helmets and a phone number were asked to be added. School principals will also be contacted.
 - **Spice of Life** took place participation of the "Friends of the Comm. Path"
7. **Subcommittee report**
- **Web site** - the domain name will be "BikeSomerville.org"
 - **Somerville Bicycle Committee member invitation** – will be announced in Boston City weekly, SCAT and Somerville Journal.
 - **Public Meetings**
 - i. **Twin City Plaza** – Star Market will be expanded into a Shaws.
 - ii. **Union Square** – masterplan was submitted with comments from Greg and Bhupesh concerning the addition of "Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety" into the text.
 - iii. **East Broadway** – Greg met with Bill Lyons (T&P), Tuck O'Brien, Christi Wrigley, and Brian Harris (OHCD). Lanes are set and thermoplastic will be standard for use in project rather than "tape" as used on Elm Street.
 - iv. **Porter Square Neighborhood Association** – Ron went to meeting and raised issue with the attempt to have the Southbound bicycles on mass avenue having to cross four lanes of traffic to reach the Porter Square Shopping Plaza.
8. **City Report** - Tuck O'Briencontinued to next meeting
9. **Meeting adjourned 8:15pm** - after Tuck O'Brien left and quorum was no longer represented

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