

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 October 22, 2002

page one of two

AGENDA City Report, Friends of the Community Path, Events, Meeting attendance, Subcommittees, Bicycle Guidelines, Announcements

ATTENDEES Darren Carlton Turil Cronburg Jim Gallagher Ron Newman Greg Palmer
Bhupesh Patel Lars Kellogg-Stedman Tuck O'Brien-OHCD Jim Hodgdon – Police dept
Joel Bennett – Friends of the Community Path

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 September 24th meeting. Next meeting is Nov. 26th @ VNA 6:30pm. Please be punctual.
 - The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) is located at 259 Lowell Street, Somerville. Tel. 617.776.9800
2. **Announcements** –
 - We welcome Domenic Siraco as a new member to the committee.
 - The bike routes map was completed comments from OHCD were submitted and need to be included..
 - There is a new advocacy group to extend the MBTA “green line” through Somerville (Somerville-T.com)
 - Turil, Bhupesh, Joel Bennett and Lynn Weissman from Friends of the Community Path attended the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Hearing for Mass Legislators’ Joint Committee on Public Safety. There was a comprehensive representation from Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston.
3. **City Report** - Tuck O'Brien
 - Davis Square treatment of recreational bike path across the main plaza needs to be resolved
 - Tuck presented proposal to utilize excessively wide shoulder lane as a bike lane.
 - A meeting will be held for crafting a solution. Greg will head the task force.
 - Any bike parking requests or knowledge of other parties’ requests should be directed to **Tuck**.
 - New Family Health Center on Somerville Avenue in Union Square will have numerous bike racks present.
4. **Friends of the Community Path** – Joel Bennett, Turil Cronburg, Bhupesh Patel
 - Bryce Nesbitt is starting a Friends of the Alewife Brook Path
 - **Lars** suggested a community bulletin board along path. Joel is talking to the city about the board.
 - **Jim** suggested using the high school wood shop to make a sign.
5. **Tour de Somerville** – Recap by attendees Lars, Greg, Turil
 - There was no rain, strong winds, and it was a successful four hour tour.
 - Fifty people started the Tour and about twenty people ended the tour.
 - **Lars** pointed out the difficulty of keeping people together and suggested less distance between stops.
 - A comment was made that routes map was confusing and was missing directional arrows.
 - **Greg** will put a “bible” together on how to put on a “Tour”.
6. **Meeting attendance** –
 - In an effort to improve punctuality, meetings will be changed to 6:30 pm rather than 6:00 pm.
 - Our bylaws were reiterated for attendance. Specifically, an “officer” should be notified if you are going to be absent. Please refer to the bylaws as drafted June 24th 2002 for other specifics.
7. **Traffic and Regulations Subcommittee** – Jim Gallagher
 - Municipal ticket book was discussed. Tickets are issued, but not followed up if unpaid.
 - **Turil** suggested sending a letter listing recommendations to the Alderman and noted that by law bicyclists have to give officers their name.
 - Cambridge issued “warnings” for a year before issuing tickets to bicyclists. 1600 violations per year are issued and 75% are warnings. The funds must go to a Bicycle Program by state law.
 - Common violations are Bicyclists running red lights and riding on sidewalks. Trucks parked in bike lanes are heavily ticketed. This violation is conflicting with the business owners needs for truck deliveries.
 - **Continued....**

8. **Bicycle Guidelines** – Turil Cronburg, Tuck O'Brien, Bhupesh Patel
 - Evolving Guidelines is the first order of business to complete.
 - i. Map will illustrate three different roads - All roads, Commuter Routes network, Recreational Routes network.
 - ii. **Turil** presented the Bike regulations based on the Massbike. Please review and be ready to comment at next meeting.
 - iii. Set of standards for bike lane treatments are included as Bhupesh has illustrated in past handouts
 - iv. Guidelines for Bike racks will be developed
 - v. Squares will be dealt with individually.
 - vi. A "record" with a timeline of prioritized infrastructure projects will kept and revised on an on going basis. This will ensure the committee is up to date and aware of which projects need expediting.
 - Pilot work programs will be the next order of business
 - i. Safe routes to school
 - ii. Incentive programs for "Bike racks for business"
 - iii. Awareness and education of young people, and general public
 - iv. Etc.
 - Galvanize constituents
 - i. Recruit members with "Talent and Time".
 - ii. Build subscriber roster (community advocates) with a periodic newsletter.
 - iii. Institute form letter of support for mass "on demand" distribution.
 - Please be ready to have any additional comments of the above scope at next meeting
9. Thank you' cake served in appreciation of Darren Carlton's service to the Committee. Darren is resigning to pursue other volunteer opportunities.
10. **Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm**

Please notify SBC at www.ci.somerville.ma.us/boards/bicycle/asp 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 "community volunteers" and community advocates