

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE
Joseph A. Curtatone, Jr.
Mayor

Alan Moore, Chair
Ron Newman, Vice Chair
Greg Palmer, Secretary

Jim Gallagher
Dereck Mangus
Bhupesh Patel

Mike Buckley, Office of the Mayor
of Aldermen

Denise Provost, Board

Jim Hodgdon, Police Dept.
Dept. (vacant)

Traffic and Parking

Dept. of Public Works (vacant)

Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD)

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, October 26, 2004, City Hall

ATTENDEES Alan, Ron, Greg, Jim G., Dereck, Steve, Joel Bennett, Peter Coyle

1. Minutes - Alan Moore, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm. The September minutes were reviewed and approved. The July and August minutes were also approved.

2. City Report - Steve Winslow - Todd Blake has resigned and left city employment. No replacement has been named. SPCD has advertised for a transportation planner. Alan asked if there's an opportunity for input by the SBC. Steve doesn't know but will find out. Joel asked how the position will be funded. Steve said through federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Steve announced that he has been asked to devote half his time to being the city's Conservation Commission agent. Alan asked what the SBC can do to ensure his position as Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator continues past next year. Steve responded to keep track of the budget process that begins in Spring '05.

A. Somerville/Cambridge/Belmont path improvements - Steve is setting up a meeting between MBTA bus operations, MassHighway, and the city to talk about use of the Davis Sq. busway for bicycles. Joel said he'd like to attend that meeting, representing the Friends of the Community Path.

B. Community Path - Phase 1, Cedar St. to Central St.: the MBTA thinks it may not need as much of the right-of-way at Lowell St. for the Green Line extension, in relation to the path. **Phase 2, School St. to North Point, Cambridge:** A public meeting will be scheduled for next year. The city is asking for an extension from MassPike for spending the tourism grant money that would fund a landscape design/art competition (see Aug. '04 minutes). A group of Tufts students wants to be involved in community outreach in the Phase 2 section. Greg asked if they were talking with the Path Friends group, to which the answer was 'yes'.

C. School St. - The study of School St. from Medford St. up to Highland Ave. by Ali MacDonald, Tufts University student, has started.

D. Assembly Square - Jim reported that the charette, organized by the developer, Sturtevant Partners, for the Yard 21 parcel drew only 10 people, although the crowd was very pro-bike. A big public meeting will be held in January.

E. Mystic River - Steve is setting up a meeting between the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (MDCR) Somerville, Everett about the feasibility of the Amelia Earhart Dam crossing.

F. Draw 7 Park to Route 99 path extension - The T has concerns about a path right-of-way that would run along their bus yard, and how it would meet up with Route 99 in Charlestown. One option might be for the path to inland instead. Alan said that we need to keep the river option, and that someone needs to follow this up, and push for it. Ron would like to see both options pursued. **Action:** Ron and Alan will find someone in Boston/Charlestown to represent bicyclists' concerns about this project from their end.

G. Stop and Shop - Steve thinks it's too late to retrofit the sidewalk for ramp access near the northerly bike rack. The lesson here is to examine access to racks as well.

H. McGrath Highway - Jim will follow up on the awkwardly worded signs for bicycles at the intersections- "BICYCLE STOP ON LINE FOR GREEN". It should read: "WAIT ON [bike symbol] TO REQUEST GREEN", otherwise bikes may not be detected by the loop.

2. Membership - Greg spoke to the city clerk about length of terms in office and expiration dates, and how every committee member must apply to be re-appointed next year. The SBC will also be down at least one member if another resignation occurs.

3. Tour de Somerville - Ron said this year's ride went very well, with over 60 people riding. He suggested expanding the tour to Medford next year. Greg said that we should be thinking about how to integrate more with city government in publicizing and running the tour.

4. Bike parking ordinance - Alan will check with Bhupesh on the status of introducing the ordinance to the Board of Aldermen.

5. Bike racks at schools - Alan wants to explore funding options for buying and installing bike racks at the Brown and Cummings schools. He wanted to know if volunteers could put the racks in. Steve will ask DPW. Does the city have any post and ring racks left over? Steve will ask Traffic and Parking. Alan will talk to Jen Hill at Groundwork Somerville about possibly funding some racks.

6. Bike lanes - A subcommittee was formed to come up with guidelines for bicycle movement on streets, and the appropriateness of one-way bike lanes, and contra flow bike lanes. Ron, Jim, and Greg will be on this subcommittee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next two SBC meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month, due to the holidays: November 16, and December 21, at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Palmer, Secretary