



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## 05/16/2012 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of May 16, 2012  
Approved June 20, 2012 \*The minutes were approved with corrections.

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Scott Smith, Doug Greenfield, Jack Johnson and Ron Sender. Joey Glushko and Susan Snow were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

We all introduced ourselves for the benefit of the first time attendee.

TAC report. Scott told us that the Town and consultants are negotiating the 75% design plans for the Mass. Ave. redevelopment and that the Town has not yet heard from MassDOT. We discussed the fact that the addition of a second motor vehicle travel lane eastbound affects bicyclists by forcing the bike lane to start farther to the east than it otherwise would. Stephan asked if this gap in the bike lanes could be rectified later when Mass. Ave. is repaved in Arlington Center. Scott thought that this could be done. We all agreed that a gap in the bicycle lanes east of Arlington Center would be undesirable.

Scott also told us that there is no new information about the CLAMP project. The working group, however, will be meeting this Monday, May 21. There has been some movement on the Mill St. project. Scott reminded us that as part of the Brigham's development, there were going to be improvements in the Mill St. Bikeway crossing, including a flashing signal, red towards the path and amber towards Mill St. Scott would like to see automatic activation of the crossing signals turn the Mill St. view to red.

There were two evening counts on the bike path this month at Lake St. Stephan told us that in the hour he was counting, he saw no conflicts and felt that it was the light that was causing the traffic backup along Lake St, and not the path crossing.

Recreational Trails Grant Program. Joey showed us hard copies of several possibilities for the new bikeway map. There are mile markers along the path on the map. There will also be enlargements of several areas of interest like Arlington and Lexington Centers. Scott would like to see the mixed-use paths be marked in bright green while grey and black should be used for roads. Jack told us that we must make sure that all the cross streets that access the path are noted. We decided that the 17x24 inch size would be the best presentation and would give enough room for bikeway information in addition to showing the map. Joey noted that the working group has a contract with a company to design the signs, markers and benches that will be uniform along the entire length of the path. Jack asked if there is money to print the map. Joey answered that there is money for the printing but they don't yet have money to implement the amenities along the path. Jack also suggested that fixed bicycle repair areas be considered as part of the amenities.

Report on Minuteman Bikeway Cleanup in Arlington. Stephan told us that there were fewer volunteers this year but there wasn't as much trash. In any case, the path is pretty clean, going into the summer.

Planning the Bike-Arlington Tour. Scott will send us a revised cue sheet outlining the current route of the Tour. We will meet this Sunday at the Jefferson-Cutter House. Joey informed us that we will have two police escorts on bikes. She also told us that the police will be enforcing traffic laws with more rigor than they have in the past and they would like to get that message out at the tour. We digressed into a discussion about where notices about bikeway closures should be posted. Christopher suggested that we send the Selectmen invitations to participate in the bike tour.

ABAC on the web. Doug reported on the state of the new ABAC web site. Ron suggested that there be more information on the upcoming events section. He would also like to see more photos of people on bikes enjoying the bikeway. We felt that the website has come a long way and that it is ready to be linked to the ABAC page on the Town web site.

Report on League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community designation. Jack suggested that the signs be posted in Arlington Center at the ends of the path. We discussed the League's recommendations for moving up to the silver designation and decided that it would be difficult for Arlington to attain, as permanent staff would have to be hired to coordinate bicycle transportation. Jack thought that we should plan some kind of event to honor the posting of the signs. This idea got unanimous support.

ACTION ITEM: All interested parties should submit their ideas about where in Arlington the signs designating it a Bicycle Friendly Community should be posted.

Support of Arlington Police enforcement of traffic laws related to cyclists. Joey told us that the Police Department would like to announce the new enforcement plan at the Bike Arlington Tour and possibly hand out some literature. We decided that we need more information before we endorse this policy.

"Moving Together" articles for the Arlington Advocate. All of the planned articles have now been published. We discussed whether we should endorse extending the program. We all thought it was a good idea to continue this outreach. Christopher told us that Ed Starr of TAC administered the project. Joey will check to see if he is willing to continue. We then discussed possible topics for future articles. While on the topic of outreach, we discussed the possibility of a bicycle repair station on the path sometime this summer. Chad Gibson and Steven Quinn led the effort in past years. Neither of them has been to an ABAC meeting recently so someone will have to see if they are willing to plan this effort.

State Bike/Walk Summit. Jack will attend the first Massachusetts Bike/Walk Summit. This event is modeled on the National Bike Summit held several months ago. The purpose of the summit is to get state legislators to think more about vulnerable road users such as bicyclists and walkers. Jack will be participating. Stephan asked about the status of the national transportation bill in Congress. Jack answered that they are trying to work out something they can agree on.

Bike Sharing in Arlington. We talked briefly about the possibility of Bike Sharing moving into Arlington. Joey told us that someone from the Planning Department will attend the MAPC meeting on this topic. We all thought that there would have to be some modifications of the design currently being used in communities larger than Arlington.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

\*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller