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11/28/2012 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of November 28, 2012
Approved Dec. 19, 2012

Board members attending were Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, and Doug Greenfield. Also present were Joey Glushko and Phil Goff.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30

*Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes from the October meeting were approved with amendments.

Open position on the executive board. Phil expressed his interest in joining the ABAC Executive Board. He gave a short synopsis of his qualifications. He is a transportation planning professional and feels that his expertise would be an asset to the Board. He was a founding board member of the Livable Streets Alliance and a founder of East Arlington Livable Streets among other qualifications. Christopher expressed his support of Phil's nomination. Ron thought that an immediate appointment is, perhaps, premature and would like to see Phil regularly attend meetings for a while before he is appointed. Phil told us that he would like to be a member of the Street Striping Design Working Group and if he could be a member of this group without being a board member, he would like to volunteer. Scott and Jack said that they are willing to see Phil appointed to the board soon because he does have recent Town Committee experience and explained to Phil that it is essential that he attend meetings regularly.

*Scott proposed a motion that we recommend Phil be appointed to the ABAC Executive Board by the Board of Selectmen. The motion passed with one abstention.

Report from the Transportation Advisory Committee. Scott told us that there has been no official progress in the Mass. Ave. Corridor Project, the CLAMP Project is now in the 25% design phase and the Lake St./Minuteman Bikeway crossing is being discussed seriously at TAC. TAC's current thought about the Lake St. crossing is that the lack of coordination between the light at Brooks Ave. and the Bikeway crossing is causing at least some of the congestion on Lake St. during the rush hour. Scott told us that he wants to look into the problem by observing the crossing at a time when there is little traffic on the Bikeway. Phil suggested some sort of chicane feature to calm traffic on the Bikeway. We thought that the Bikeway right-of-way might not be wide enough for that potential solution. Scott suggested that increasing the traffic capacity of Lake St. might lead to an increase in cut-through traffic on the other side of Mass. Ave.

Recreational Trails Grant Program. Joey told us that she has not heard anything new from the consultants on the project. However, the mapping project is progressing and she expects to see a pdf file of the brochure design soon. There will be a map of the Bikeway on one side and enlargements of town centers districts on the back. Joey will send us copies of the design for proof reading when she receives the file.

Outreach to the Police Department. We noted that our amendments to the Police Bicycle Safety Brochure were submitted. They accepted almost all of our revisions. We then discussed the best way for the brochure to be introduced. Ideas included sending a pdf of the brochure to the Advocate and handing it out at the Winter Social. We have been working with Officer Conroy in writing the brochure. We felt that we should pursue this relationship with the Police Department to maintain an open flow of information.

Bikeway Usage Guidelines. Scott and Stephan reviewed and revised Lexington's Bikeway Usage Guidelines as a basis for Arlington's guidelines for special uses of the Bikeway. This project was instigated by a request from the Town Manager. Scott gave us a review of their revisions. He asked us what we thought the size cut-off should be for groups that need to apply for permission to use the Bikeway. He then outlined the changes that were made to the Lexington Guidelines to make them more appropriate to Bikeway usage in Arlington. We discussed the appropriate definition of the "commute time" for Arlington and concluded that 7:30 to 9:30 am and 4:30 to 6:30 pm are appropriate. Jack noted that this document should be named "Guidelines for Special Events on the Minuteman Bikeway in Arlington."

People suggested various changes in the guidelines such as the need to apply for permission to use the Bikeway at least 30 days in advance. Joey told us that she thinks that the Town Manager can be trusted to make the decision about granting permission so we don't have to be involved. Jack asked if there would be a fee. Joey answered that there is no fee envisioned at the moment but that could change in the future if necessary. This committee will send further comments on the Guidelines to either Scott or Stephan and we will revisit the topic at the next meeting.

Moving Together. Scott suggested that now is a good time for an article on riding a bicycle at night. Should there be a Mass. Ave. ballot question, an article on that project might also be appropriate at a later date.

Planning for the Winter Social. Jack had some further thoughts about possible speakers. He thinks Scott Mullen would be an engaging speaker. Phil volunteered to contact Scott so that we could settle on a date. The date must be settled soon so that we can reserve a venue. Phil also volunteered to give a talk if Scott can't make it or we decide on another topic. We designated February 28 or March 14 as potential dates. Joey will check with the Center for the Arts to see if the room is available.

Spring outreach. We again discussed the possibility of having a bicycle repair outreach along the bikeway this summer. Christopher reminded us that we need permission from the Selectmen for this project. Producing this event depends, to some extent, on contacting Chad Gibson and/or Steven Quinn to run it. Christopher said that he would contact them

Bike accommodation as roads are repaved. Scott Smith told us about some of the problems in striping bike lanes on all our busy streets. Phil thinks that careful design can mean bike lanes in more places. Scott added that we need to formulate a general policy and detailed designs for specific stretches of road. Phil volunteered to participate in this process.

Other topics. Jack told us that bike racks have been installed at the MBTA terminus in Arlington Heights. Joey informed us that there is a group in town that wants to present a warrant article dealing with lighting the Bikeway at night and extending its hours of use. This idea is expected to be reviewed by TAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller