



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes, Jan. 4, 2010

ABAC Meeting Minutes for the meeting of January 4, 2010.
(Approved May 3, 2010)

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, Ted Packard, and Jack Johnson. Joey Glushko, Chad Gibson, Doug Greenfield and Phil Goff were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

*The meeting minutes for the December meeting were accepted with a number of corrections. We again tabled the approval of the November minutes until the next meeting.

Discussion of attendance of the National Bike Summit – an annual event of the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) - to be held in Washington D.C., March 9-11. Jeff asked if we should send a contingent to the LAB summit. Jack gave us an overview of past LAB summits. He recommended attendance for current and future bicycle activists. Jeff asked if the cost of the conference could be defrayed using ABAC funds. Jack warned that there would be a significant time commitment for anyone who wished to attend. We will ask the Selectmen if there is any conflict of interest in using ABAC funds for defraying the cost of attending the summit.

Upgrades to storm drains on Rt.2 service roads. Jeff told us that he took a survey of the storm drains on the Rt. 2 service roads. He found 15 drain grids that were in the wrong orientation. He reported the problem to MassHighway and they are determining which jurisdiction is responsible for each drain.

Task group reports on education and safety issues. The Road Safety Task Group meeting was snowed out but Scott reported that there were 42 auto-bike crashes and about 2000 auto crashes in Arlington over the last three years. He warned that reporting of incidents not involving autos is spotty. He also warned that the Selectmen are thinking of raising fines on bicyclists who ride on Arlington sidewalks. Scott also summarized the recommendations made by the Center Bicycle Path Crossing Task Group. Jeff told us that the group will be making both long and short term recommendations. This task group would like to get bicycles off the sidewalks as soon as possible. We then discussed, at length, the alternatives to riding on the sidewalks suggested by the task group.

Letter to the family of the victim of the accident on Rt. 2. Chad drafted a letter to the family expressing our sorrow for the death and our intention to make bicycling safer. The letter will be sent on behalf of ABAC.

ABAC comments on development projects in the community. Joey gave us a very brief summary of the status of the project proposed for the Brigham's site. Jack suggested that we should submit summary comments at the appropriate time. We concluded that we should be assembling our thoughts about our recommendations. We nominated Michael Beck to do a preliminary draft. Joey also summarized plans for the Forest St. reconstruction.

Discussion of the Winter Social to be held in March. Ted sent an email to the Major Taylor group. The reply was that no one is available to speak on Thursdays. We discussed changing the date. We also talked about asking someone from Livable Streets. Phil also suggested Walk Boston. Joey will find out what dates the Whittemore-Robbins House is available and Phil will attempt to book the speaker.

Tri-community bicycle meeting to be held on April 5, 2010 in the Town Hall Annex. We talked about possible agenda items of interest to the three communities. We decided to also send meeting notices to the committees in Somerville, Belmont and Cambridge. Joey told us that she was contacted by the group responsible for the construction of the Bruce Freeman Bikeway who were interested in our input about bikeway amenities. She asked for a volunteer to attend their meeting, or submit ideas.

Arlington Bicycle Plan. Jack and Phil gave us some information on different kinds of bicycle plans that they were familiar with. Phil gave us a list of topics that should be included and an estimate for the cost of having the plan professionally formulated. He then briefly went through a possible process for writing a plan. Ron asked whether this kind of plan is usually a local or a regional process. Phil thought that a local plan is an important link in the planning process. Doug asked how such a plan is used. The

answer provided by Phil is that it varies from city to city depending whether the plan is adopted as law. Some cities use their plans as less formal outlines to guide bicycle friendly improvements.

Jack asked Joey if there are any funding sources to pay for the formulation of a plan. The answer is that funding is currently rather hard to come by. Scott thought this should be part of a comprehensive transportation plan for the Town. Christopher asked whether we could tackle such a plan ourselves. Chad asked if there is any political value to having the plan professionally formulated. We will discuss this topic further at the next meeting.

ABAC Bylaws and committee structure. Christopher updated us on his progress in rewriting the bylaws, and the formulation of the Annual Report.

*Scott made a motion that we give Christopher the full responsibility of preparing the report. The motion was passed unanimously.

Arlington Bike Tour. We decided to have the Bike Tour only in the fall this year. We felt that the fall date is complemented by allowing us to advertise the event at Town Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

*Denotes a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller