



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes, Feb. 1, 2010

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) Meeting Minutes for the 1 February 2010 Meeting (approved, May 3, 2010)

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Ted Packard, Jeff Roth, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, and Christopher Tonkin (chair). Mike Beck, Elizabeth Carr-Jones, Chad Gibson, Joey Glushko, Pete Howard, Alan Jones, and Stephen Quinn were also present at the meeting.

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

Attendance at National Bike Summit in Washington D.C. The yearly National Bike Summit, sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists, provides groups like ABAC the opportunity to become better advocates for bicycling initiatives. In order to facilitate ABAC members being able to attend the National Bike Summit, ABAC solicited approval from the Board of Selectmen to use ABAC funds to provide financial support to those wishing to attend the meeting. The Board of Selectmen approved this request at their 11 January 2010 meeting.

\*ABAC voted in support of exercising this authority to pay the registration fees for one or two ABAC members to attend the National Bike Summit.

These funds were not expended for the 2010 meeting since those wishing to attend were not able to do so. Jack Johnson of ABAC plans to attend the National Bike Summit, but did not require ABAC funding.

Winter Social— 4 March 2010. The annual ABAC Winter Social is planned for 4 March 2010 at 7:00p. The guest speaker will be Jacqueline Douglas of the LivableStreets Alliance. Christopher Tonkin plans to put a deposit down to reserve the Whittemore-Robbins House for this event.

- To publicize the event, Jack plans to send out the old flyers used in previous year, and also help with sending an email message to the Arlington Advocate.
- Christopher Tonkin plans to post a notice for the event to the ABAC *topica* email list.

Bicycle Safety Plan for Arlington Center Intersection and for Traffic Enforcement. ABAC discussed the bicycle safety plan, which is being addressed by two task groups jointly formed by Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and ABAC members. The first task group is addressing engineering improvements to better accommodate Minuteman Bikeway users in the Arlington Center Intersection. The second task group is addressing the education and enforcement of traffic rules for bicyclists and motorists.

Scott Smith summarized both of the task groups' efforts, and presented the "Sharing the Road Safely: Tips for Bicyclists and Motorists" brochure. He also presented the eight points in the Executive Summary Bicycle Safety Plan, which provides an overall positive approach that encourages bicycling. Both documents were well-received, and only minor changes were suggested.

Jeff Roth briefly discussed the Arlington Center Intersection approaches under consideration by the Task Group, both in terms of short-term and long-term approaches. Jeff suggested that enforcement of bicycling on the sidewalks be implemented in conjunction with near-term accommodations of bicyclists traveling through the Arlington Center intersection on the Minuteman Bikeway. Asking bicyclists to walk on the sidewalks when there is no safe alternative on the roadways will be difficult to enforce. Furthermore, if sidewalk bicycling is enforced, then it could make inexperienced bicyclists feel obligated to use the roadways, which currently have no accommodations for bicyclists.

The Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) is also studying the engineering approaches for the Arlington Center Intersection topic, and will be providing further guidance to the Town. TAC will also be discussing both the engineering topic, as well as the education and enforcement topic, at the upcoming February meeting.

\*ABAC voted unanimous support for both the eight points in the Executive Summary Bicycle Safety Plan and for the amended brochure "Sharing the Road Safely: Tips for Bicyclists and Motorists".

- Scott Smith plans to distribute by email the amended brochure "Sharing the Road Safely: Tips for Bicyclists and Motorists".

ABAC Bylaws and Committee Structure. This topic was tabled until the next ABAC meeting.

- Christopher plans to distribute revisions to the Bylaws document at the next meeting.

Arlington Bicycle Plan. This topic was only briefly discussed, and was deferred for further discussion until the next ABAC meeting.

- It was decided to form a task group for this topic at the next ABAC meeting. This task group will advise and lead on the formation of an Arlington Bicycle Plan.
- Jack Johnson said he is willing to advise on this subgroup.

Alewife Brook Greenway Public Art. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) plans to start construction soon on the Alewife Brook Greenway. East Arlington Livable Streets and the Arlington Cultural Council proposed to the DCR incorporating a public art project into the trail design. This topic was briefly discussed by ABAC. ABAC was generally supportive of the idea of public art along this trail, as well as along the proposed Battle Road Scenic Byway.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30p.

\* Denotes a vote of the Board was taken.

- Denotes an action item taken.

Minutes submitted by Jeffrey Roth.