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Minutes - June 7, 2010

ABAC Meeting Minutes for the meeting of June 7, 2010; approved Aug. 2, 2010.

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Ron Sender, Scott Smith and Stephan Miller. Also present were Mick Beck, Chad Gibson, Joey Glushko and Steven Quinn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35.

The minutes from last month's meeting (May) were approved after a number of modifications were made.

Preparations for Town Day. We decided that the committee treasurer should take over the committee accounting starting with the proceeds taken in at Town Day. Joey suggested we have the usual sign up sheet and this year we (as opposed to those who sign) put all of the names on our mailing list. We reviewed the various deadlines we have to meet to ensure that our Town Day presence is successful.

Review of Bike Week activities. Scott told us about his participation at a table on the Minuteman Bikeway staffed by Charles River Transportation Management. He also told us that our bike brochures were handed out at two different locations during Bike Week. Furthermore, Arlington was the top town in miles pledged for the CRTM Bike Week celebration.

Update on Clean Air Mobility Program. Chad told us that the town is considering changing the timing of the traffic lights at the intersection of Pleasant St. and Mass. Ave. The consensus in the town is that the left turn cycles are too short. This cycle is currently set at 90 seconds. Increasing the turn time to 105 seconds could reduce frustration at the intersection and possibly reduce the number of autos running the red light. Christopher asked if the timing of the lights could be synchronized with the time of day and/or the day of the week. No one knew for sure whether that capability exists but the consensus guess is that it cannot.

Scott told us that we must provide the town with a detailed plan for improved street marking and signage. However, given the recent cutbacks these changes might not be made until the autumn.

Report on bikeway cleanup efforts. We did a lot of cleaning up during the May cleanup. We resolved that we will hold our own cleanup earlier in the season when it is easier to see debris in the undergrowth. In the past, we have coordinated our efforts with those of other towns and organizations. We realized that there is probably no good reason to do this and that it is easier to accomplish the task earlier in May before the plants have leafed out. We also resolved to advertise the cleanup event more and longer in advance. Chad thought we could start in February!

Discussion of the June 12 Safety Stop and T-shirt sales. Chad told us that the Selectmen approved selling T-shirts on this Saturday, June 12. We will set up a tent and table on the Bike Path near Linwood St. We set up a schedule for who would man the table and what each of us will be responsible for. Mick asked us to bring tools and bicycle pumps. Mick also suggested we provide a bucket for donations.

Review and discussion of ABAC Bylaw changes. We reviewed our thinking about keeping the number of board members at seven with a quorum of four. We also reviewed our decision to limit board membership to residents of Arlington. We discussed changing the designation of people who regularly attend meetings but are not on the board to "associate members." Chad felt that we should add the requirement to post meeting minutes promptly on the Town web site. We discussed article 7, how many votes are required to pass a motion. We also discussed the difference between subcommittees and task groups and decided to include both.

Discussion of the League of American Bicyclists Bike Friendly Community Designation. Some of us had some trepidation about making an application to the LAB because of the current hostility towards bicycles by some citizens of the Town. There was some push back against this point of view. Some of us argued that the political situation makes it imperative that bicycle advocates strike a high profile. We all agreed to continue working on this project and apply some time next year.

Participation in MAPC bike rack purchase program. Joey told us that there is more money available to purchase racks. We will have to revise and update our list of possible sites for racks in Town.

Bike Arlington Tour. Christopher suggested we use the same route this year that we used last year.

Safe Routes to School Tour. Joey would like to have a Safe Routes to School Tour in the fall for students attending the Hardy School. Chad thought that it would be helpful for the East Arlington Livable Streets organization to become involved with this task.

Advocacy of new signs in Town. Ron would like to see more slow traffic keep right signs on the Bike Path. Pedestrians have always walked inappropriately on the path but it is getting worse.

Bikeway Maps. Joey told us that there is an independent group working on a new map of the Bikeway. This will be a map rather than the brochure that it is replacing. Quad Cycles has volunteered financial support.

*We voted and agreed to endorse the East Arlington Livable Streets letter to the Selectmen regarding the advisability of bicycle lanes on Mass. Ave.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm

*Denotes a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller