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Minutes - Aug. 2, 2010

ABAC Meeting Minutes for the meeting of August 2, 2010.

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Jack Johnson, Ron Sender, Scott Smith and Stephan Miller. Also present were Doug Greenfield, Michael Ratner, Stephen Quinn and Michelle Dasaro.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

*The minutes of the July meeting were accepted with several changes.

*ABAC Bylaws—review and vote on proposed changes. We made a few last changes then had a discussion about what the procedure is to get approval from the Town. Scott asked if it needs to be presented to the Town Counsel. We decided that we will have to check into the correct procedure. We voted to approve the Bylaws as amended and to send them on to the appropriate authority.

Nominations for open positions on the Executive Board of ABAC. Jack asked if Jeff Roth has officially resigned. The consensus was that Jeff's position is in limbo. We will ask Jeff if he has submitted his resignation to the Selectmen. We decided that we would like to solicit new board members at Town Day.

Town Day event planning (Town Day is September 25 this year). All the reservations for our usual spot in front of the library have been made. We poled those present to see who will be available to staff the booth. We decided that we will sell T-shirts again this year. Jack suggested that we do not sell bike maps because there are now many alternatives to paper maps and sales have dwindled in the last few years. Scott will provide the Arlington Center Crossing Brochure. Jack suggested that we also give out or at least display Doug's Arlington Bike Map.

Planning for the Arlington Fall Bicycle Tour. The projected date is October 3. Christopher suggested that we repeat the same route that we used last year. Jack and Scott would like to route the tour in the eastern part of town to show off the new bicycle amenities at and near Alewife station. We decided to table the decision of which route to use until the September meeting when we will have a better idea of what will be the state of the current construction at the Alewife station. Michael asked for a summary of what the Tour is and why we do it. We explained.

Arlington Center traffic movement controls. Scott gave a recap of the issues facing us with the Arlington Center bikeway crossing. He told us that there is a good possibility that the Town will get a state grant to improve this intersection but in the short term, the Town wishes to make some changes this summer. The TAC recommends road markings to facilitate the flow of bicycle traffic. Scott gave us an overview of the markings that the TAC would like to see. Stephan objected to bicycles bearing the brunt of the problem which brought on a discussion of the equitability of the plan.

Scott added that there will be a newly appointed joint design committee to oversee the eventual redesign of the Center. Jack, Christopher, Ron and Stephan will possibly represent ABAC.

Bike Friendly Community designation. We previously discussed the political implications of proceeding with this project. We decided that we will begin collecting data for the application. Jack will coordinate this effort. Jack suggested that he and Phil Goff have a meeting with the Town Planner and the Town Manager and perhaps others in Town Hall to gauge enthusiasm for the application.

News and Views. Christopher reminded us that concurrent construction at Rt. 16, Alewife and Arlington Center requires extra caution for those on bicycles. Ron will call the DPW and ask that they post motor vehicles excluded signs at the entrances to the Bike Path and make a request that the Knotweed in the Heights be clipped. Scott announced that the Town is considering building bus shelters along Mass. Ave. and is inviting comments on this plan. We all endorsed the idea.

Scott recapped the recent informational public meeting about the East Arlington Mass. Ave. Project. Ron and Stephan also commented that it was more civil and useful than earlier meetings.

Christopher solicited comments from the first time attendees about the interest and usefulness of the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

*Denotes a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller