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Minutes - Sept. 13, 2010

ABAC Meeting Minutes for the meeting of September 13, 2010.

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Ron Sender and Stephan Miller. Also present were Doug Greenfield, Mike Rademacher, Stephen Quinn, Joey Glushko, and Keri Moos.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37.

There was not a quorum at this meeting so we were unable to vote to accept the minutes of the last meeting.

Arlington Center bike path crossing. Mike gave us a summary of what is happening with the signs and street markings directing bike path users through Arlington Center. The stencils have been received for the sidewalk and street markings illuminating the correct path for bicycles to get through the intersection. We also discussed the new timing of the left turn lights. Mike explained why there are two lights indicating (falsely) two lanes in both directions on to Pleasant St. We discussed, once again, the best way to route bikes through the Center.

Clean Air and Mobility Program. Working with TAC, the Town Engineer and ABAC, the Metropolitan Planning Organization has voted funds for the Town to improve the intersection of Rte. 60 and Mass. Ave. including a solution to the disconnected bikeway. There is currently a task group dealing with planning for these improvements consisting of Laura Wiener, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith and Jeff Maxtutis. ABAC has been asked to assign 1-2 people to work on this important project. Mike also discussed the improvements that could be designed with the CLAMP money. Some possibilities include a second lane by the Uncle Sam statue and/or a bidirectional lane in front of Cambridge Savings Bank. He also gave us a short summary of the possible improvements being planned for the second stage of the Mass. Ave. project. Joey told us that the timelines for these grants are usually variable. Chad thanked Mike for painting the fog lines and bike lanes on newly paved roads around town.

Nominations to ABAC open positions; ABAC's new Bylaws. The Bylaws we approved and have been sent to the Town Council for review but we have not heard the result. Once approved, the Selectmen also need to review and approve them before they can go into effect. Joey would like to have Selectmen's review at their October 18 meeting.

There are potentially two openings on the board. Chad suggested that we nominate Mick Beck for one of the positions and we discussed the possibility that Doug could fill the other opening.

Town Day event planning. Joey told us that she has succeeded in getting a demo MBTA bus bike rack to show at Town Day. We tried to figure out where to put it as it takes up more space than we will have available at our table. We also discussed the logistics of setting up the tent and table. Doug, Jack, Ron, Stephen volunteered to man the table during the day. Doug will update the Arlington Bike Map and we will give them out. Joey reminded us that we need to have a signup for our mailing list. We also decided to set up a new mailing list to facilitate communications and so that we can subscribe those who want to receive our informational emails.

Arlington Fall Bike Tour. We would like to cooperate with the East Arlington Livable Streets organization in organizing the Tour this year. Chad will lead this effort. The route will be primarily in East Arlington. Joey will reserve the Jefferson-Cutter House and contact the police. The date for the Tour will be October 3.

Capitol Square signage and installation. Chad showed us some new signs for the path indicating the way to the business area in "Capitol Square." We discussed ways to protect the signs from graffiti.

New bike rack sites: Fall 2010 installations. The sites for the next batch of racks have been designated and the racks have been ordered. Most of the new racks will be in East Arlington. Christopher asked about the rack at the MBTA terminus. Joey told us that that location is under negotiation for a commercial enterprise and the installation of a bicycle rack is in question.

Bicycle Friendly Community designation. We deferred this topic until the next meeting.

Bikeway Maps. Joey is looking into getting a professional designer for the new bikeway brochure and map. The map will be suitable for hard copy and for use on the Bikeway web site.

Bikeway signage program. We discussed the issue of directing people to the Bikeway and those on the Bikeway to local businesses. We decided that we need to create a list of locations where we think the signs should be located. We will create a task group at the next meeting to address this issue. Joey showed us pictures of a plan for the entrance to the new stone dust path along Alewife Brook. We were invited to comment. Most of the comments were not favorable.

News. Ron reviewed the recent problem of the Thorndike gate at the end of the Bikeway being open all the time. Mike told us earlier that a sign will be placed at the gate prohibiting motor vehicles but Ron reiterated that he thought the gate should be locked most of the time. Keri asked about repairing root heaves on the path. Joey told her about the DPW request page on the Town web site. Ron added that it is useful, when asking for maintenance on the path, to note the location as exactly as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller