



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes - Oct. 4, 2010

ABAC Meeting Minutes for the meeting of October 4, 2010.

Amended, approved Nov. 1, 2010

Board members present were Ron Sender, Scott Smith, Jack Johnson and Stephan Miller. Also present were Joey Glushko, Stephen Quinn and Pete Howard.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

\*The corrected minutes for the August and September meeting were approved.

ABAC's new bylaws. Christopher Tonkin will contact Ted Packard and request his resignation letter. Two possible replacement candidates for the board are Doug Greenfield and Mick Beck. We also will append a plea for members to the mailing of the November agenda. Joey pointed out that we must start to stagger the terms of the board members to comply with the revised bylaws.

\*We passed a motion to approve a scheme for staggering the terms of the board members

The plan is to start with two one year terms, two two year terms and two three year terms. The new terms for the five current board members will be Ron for one year, Jack for two years, Christopher for two years, Stephan for three years and Scott for three years.

We briefly also discussed the upcoming presentation to the Selectmen on October 13. Christopher Tonkin will present our yearly report.

Town Day event report. We discussed the major comments on bicycle related issues that we heard from residents at our Town Day table. We agreed that people on bicycles ignoring the rules of the road is a problem that is increasing. Stephan noted that we were unable to get much in the way of suggestions for bike rack locations. Stephan then suggested that a rack is needed in the Heights near Trader Joe's. Joey and Scott would like to see racks at the Thompson School. Joey added that the bike rack installation at the bus terminus in Arlington Heights is on indefinite hold due to the possible leasing of that facility.

Bike Friendly Community designation. Jack told us that Phil Goff informed him that there are currently no Bike Friendly Community designations in Massachusetts. Jack will coordinate with Phil about determining what application cycle we should use to submit our application. He told us that we must make sure that the various aspects of the Town are in favor of the application and will lend their support. Pete and Stephan volunteered to help Jack and Phil with preparing the application. Jack thought that the application should ultimately come from the Board of Selectmen.

Bikeway maps/brochures and signage program. Joey has been working with people from Lexington and Bedford to design a new map of the bikeway. She is looking for one of the communities to take the lead in applying for a grant to fund this project. Resources permitting, she would like to see the map and brochure professionally designed.

Bike Friendly Business Community Award. We thought that this is basically a good idea to involve businesses in promoting bicycling. We have yet to work out any of the considerable number of details in achieving this goal. We tabled further discussing of this topic because Mick Beck is leading this effort and he was not present at the meeting.

Thorndike Field gate. Ron told us that no one knows who controls the key to the gate at the end of the Bike Path. The gate has been opened for various maintenance tasks recently. We have requested that the Town put a sign near the gate prohibiting motor vehicles from driving up the path. Ron also suggested that similar signs be put at the street intersections along the rest of the path. Ron will follow up with Scott to get the TAC involved.

2010 Moving Together Conference. Jack gave us the registration information for this conference.

Planning the Winter Social. Jack suggested we establish a task group to arrange this affair. He also suggested an alternative venue, the Arlington Senior Center. He explained that the advantage of the Senior Center is that there is no usage fee. Another idea presented by Joey is to have the social at a local restaurant. Jack favors keeping the format and venue the same as it has been in the past. We will think about the venue question and discuss it further next month. Joey will check the schedule of the Whittemore-Robbins house. We will also think about what kind of entertainment we want to provide. Ron suggested a good topic would be the Bicycle Friendly Community designation. Joey would like to see us pitch the East Coast Green Way as a green initiative to draw in more support. Another popular idea was one that failed to materialize last year; a talk on the life of the bicyclist Major Taylor.

Spring bikeway cleanup. We decide that the Cleanup should be held earlier in the season to make it easier to see the debris. Stephan will lead this effort through the winter.

Bike Week. Joey would like to see some form of celebration for Bike Week held in Arlington. We discussed having the Spring Bike Tour that week to celebrate the occasion. Possible dates for the Tour are May 1, 15 or 22. Ron would like to see us coordinate with other events on the Bike Path to prevent conflicts.

Development along the Bike Path. Joey suggested that we send a letter to the developers working beside the Bike Path near the skating rink to request that they respect the design and spirit of the path.

TAC report. Scott reported on the ARB meeting where the developer of the Brigham's site presented a plan for the development. The Bike Path crossing at Mill St. was discussed. Scott suggested a modest deflection of the path before the crossing would enhance the chances of bicycles crossing the street safely. The plan could include gates. Jack suggested a raised crosswalk would calm traffic in the area.

We also discussed the Arlington Center bike path crossing. The CLAMP grant given to the Town is designated for the design of improvements of that crossing. We also discussed the shared lane markers currently in the Center. Stephan felt that they are too close to the parking lane and that they encourage conflicts between bikes and car doors. Scott told us that they are indeed a bit too close to the parking lane and he will draft a letter to the DPW asking them to move the markers out further into the travel lane.

Lastly, we discussed the possibility of changing the day of our meetings. It seems that there are a number of the important town committees also meet on Mondays and there are frequent conflicts. We will discuss this topic further at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm

\*Denotes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller