



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes - Nov. 1, 2010

ABAC Minutes for the meeting of November 1, 2010.
Approved Dec. 6, 2010

Board members present were Ron Sender, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin and Stephan Miller. Also present were Joey Glushko and Stephen Quinn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35.

*The corrected minutes for the October meeting were approved.

Report on the Board of Selectmen presentation. Christopher reported his thoughts about his presentation to the Board of Selectmen. He expressed some disappointment over their understanding of our efforts and responsibilities. We decided that we need to send them more information on our efforts in controlling bicycle traffic in Arlington. Scott felt that we need to make a reasoned answer to the criticisms of our progress. Joey suggested that we send the Selectmen a packet containing a note outlining our accomplishments and the reports and brochures that we have produced in the last year. She reiterated that we should also send the Selectmen a listing of our current membership and their terms of office.

Board of Selectmen's review of the new ABAC bylaws. Our new bylaws, now called Rules of Governance, were reviewed and approved by the Selectmen.

Candidates for open positions on the ABAC board. We discussed this topic once again—specifically the issue of needing potential candidates to attend meetings regularly for some period before their appointment. Christopher will send out a message to the mailing list asking for nominees to present themselves. Ron reminded us that the entire board will soon need to be reappointed. We decided that we will submit both the names of current and new board members and the length of their appointments.

The TAC report. Joey told us that there have been changes in the plans for the development of the Brigham's site. The idea of the S-curve on the bike path at the Mill St. intersection was left hanging at the last ARB review. Scott gave us a short summary about TAC's position on the traffic potentially created by the development. He also told us that TAC has short "emergency" meetings when events necessitate them. We all thought that was a good idea and will adopt this practice.

Scott added that TAC usually has a representative at relevant ARB meetings. We will try to do the same. Stephan volunteered to attend the relevant ARB meetings including those reviewing the Brigham's Development and the Mass. Ave. Redevelopment Project.

Mass. Ave. Redevelopment Project. Scott told us that the consultants are favoring a ten foot parking lane and a five foot bicycle lane in the most recent iteration of the design. We all agreed that this parking lane is too large. We think that eight feet is enough space for parking while allowing enough clearance for safe cycling.

We discussed the topic of bicyclists obeying traffic laws. Joey suggested that we should write periodic editorials to appear in the Advocate outlining our strong endorsement of lawful cycling. Joey also told us that the Lexington Bicycle Committee has done this kind of outreach. She will summarize their efforts for the next meeting.

Bikeway maps, brochures and signage. Joey told us that Arlington, Lexington and Bedford have jointly submitted a grant proposal to the DCR. The purpose of this proposal is to obtain funding for improved signage and to design and print a brochure about the bikeway.

Bike Friendly Community Designation. We discussed putting a team together to prepare this application. We had a number of volunteers and will formalize this working group at the next meeting.

Bikeway traffic counts. Traffic counts were taken on the Bikeway in East Arlington last fall by EALS. This spurred a discussion

about the lack of good historical counts of bicycle traffic both on and off the path. Joey proposed that we make a regular (at least twice a year) effort to count the bicycle traffic. We all agreed that this data would be useful in a number of ways.

Planning for the Winter Social. Joey told us that the Whittemore-Robbins House is available for the evening for \$187. Available Thursdays in late winter are Feb. 10 and 17 and March 3 and 10. Ron reminded us that we should try to avoid school vacation week. We decided that Feb. 17 is our preferred date. We also decided that a talk about the East Coast Greenway would be of universal interest. Stephen will contact the ECG and try to get a commitment for a speaker.

Bikeway cleanup. We decide on the last weekend in April (April 30) as the date for the cleanup.

Bike-Arlington Tour. We chose May 15 as the day for the Tour with the 22ed as the rain date.

Education initiative. We discussed the value of a town-wide referendum on support for bicycling. The consensus was that this is not the time for such a referendum.

Other. Ron brought up the topic of changing the week night of the ABAC meeting. We tried to find an evening that would have the fewest conflicts with other events. Joey suggested that the third Wednesday of the month would be best for her. Scott asked what days the room is available. We checked availability and that evening is free. We will all check our schedules, discuss it further next month and possibly start the new schedule in January of 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm

*Denotes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller