

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2009

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, and Scott Smith. Laurel Carpenter, June Rowe, Pete Howard, Erna Green, and Joey Glushko were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

The minutes for the last meeting were not approved because they were not posted in time for review.

Introductions were made all around.

Update on proposed bike-rack locations for 2009 installations, eligible for MAPC grant application. Joey reported that the Selectmen were enthusiastic about our bike rack installation proposal. The Chamber of Commerce suggested that we contact the local businesses and describe the proposed rack locations, also suggesting that a face-to-face meeting with the merchants neighboring each rack would be beneficial. Racks on town property will not need this treatment. Jack, Ron, Pete, Scott, Jeff, and Erna volunteered to help with contacting the merchants.

The Selectmen also requested that we provide bike parking at Town Day. Scott was concerned about confusion of the bike-rack installation project with the Mass. Ave. Redevelopment Project. In addition he felt that we should coordinate future rack installations with that project.

Update on bikeway plowing in Arlington and Lexington this winter. Jack told us the bikeway was plowed twice shortly after the first two storms of the winter. Lexington did not plow after the first storm. Laurel told us about the plowing effort in Lexington. They are still working on getting the Town to fund the project. At present, the plowing in Lexington is privately funded and currently more limited.

Update on Mass. Ave. redesign project. Scott told us that the public meetings about the design of the project are in process. There is an upcoming meeting to discuss the resulting new designs.

Update on shared road lanes and Jeff's memo. Jeff drafted a memo to the DPW thanking them for the bicycle accommodations included in the Lake St. repaving. The letter also includes suggestions for providing safe roadway striping in our town. Jack asked for comments on the memo before we sent it. Ron suggested some minor changes. Pete added that a portion of the memo be sent to The Advocate as a letter.

Update on bicycling issues related to Safe Routes to School in Arlington: status report from Bicycling to School subcommittee. Scott filled us in on the last meeting of the School Committee Community Relations Subcommittee, where Eric Aranow and Lauren

Hefferon gave a presentation proposing a bicycling to school program. Several traffic supervisors are against the idea. The principal of the Hardy School was also not in favor of bicycling to school.

Clarissa Rowe suggested that the matter be referred to the TAC. Scott told us that this issue will be on the agenda at the next TAC meeting. Scott hopes the TAC will be able to make a concrete recommendation. Joey interjected that everyone concerned is in favor of the bicycle education portion of the program. Jack suggested that the draft pilot proposal be added to the ABAC web site.

Erna brought up the issue of riding on the sidewalks. Ron added that the bylaw about who is allowed to do what on the sidewalks needs to be updated with more specific limitations. We also briefly discussed age limitations for the final proposal.

Brief discussion of ABAC annual report. Jack will update last year's report to include this year's ABAC accomplishments. Pete reminded us that ABAC is not mentioned at the end of the report where all the town committees are listed. Jack will see to it that we are listed.

Discussion on future ABAC events: strategic planning meeting, winter social. The strategic planning meeting will take place at the Jefferson Cutter House on January 17. We will discuss our process, relationships, and results.

ABAC Winter Social. Jack has reserved the Whittemore-Robbins House and we need to find funds to pay for it. We discussed whether we should use the social as a fund raiser. Jack suggested that David Watson and Will Brownsberger would be good speakers. Joey suggested that we have John Kerry speak! Jack said perhaps we could ask him for next year. We all thought that we should keep it local this year.

Open forum. Jeff told us that Terry Gleason of Bedford has suggested that we start a blog about the Minuteman Bikeway. We decided that if we start such a blog it should be moderated. Jack told us about the new bike-commuter tax benefit. The benefit was ironically added to the federal Wall Street bailout and is only \$20 per month.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller