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Minutes of May 4, 2009

Draft ABAC Meeting Minutes for the May meeting, May 4, 2009.

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, Ted Packard and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko, Michael Beck, Paulo Marinelli, Lauren Carpenter, Doug Greenfield and Chad Gibson were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30

Updates on Mass. Ave. Corridor project. Scott gave us an update on the last public meeting about the Mass. Ave. project. An area of common concern is the problem of cut through traffic on the side streets in East Arlington. Chad also gave us his take on the proceedings. This meeting was more favorable to the idea of equal access for all modes of transportation. We, once again, discussed the supporting data used in the design. Scott added that the next public discussion of this project will be a Selectmen's meeting. Jack asked for a volunteer to speak at this meeting. Scott and Chad thought just showing up might be more effective.

Scott reminded us that this project is mostly about pedestrian safety. Ron reminded us that during the meeting there were often loud boos at the mention of the inclusion of bicycles in the transportation mix on the road.

Updates on other current projects: Arlington bike rack installations, Safe Routes to School pilot, ABAC T-shirts. Joey updated us on the status of the bike rack project. The racks have not yet been delivered. She also told us that the merchants in East Arlington are currently more favorably disposed to this project.

Safe Routes to School pilot. New bicycle racks have been installed by the bike path on Lake St. The kickoff of the project will be sometime this week. The idea of biking and walking to school seems to be permeating the Town.

T-shirts. Chad showed us three design concepts—we liked all of them. Chad told us that Quad Cycles who are sponsoring this endeavor have yet to chime in with their choice of designs.

Final planning for the BIKE-Arlington Tour, scheduled for Sunday morning, May 17. We went over the route one last time. The stopping points will be Hurd Field, Great Meadows, Ringe Park, McClennon Park, the Recreation Center, the Mt Pleasant Cemetary and we will end at the Jefferson-Cutter House. We are all looking forward to this year's tours.

Discussion of future ABAC leadership: Jack has announced his plans to step aside as ABAC chairman this summer, starting with the August 4th ABAC meeting. Jack suggested that a rotating chairmanship with two to three year terms would be ideal going forward. Jack would like to make the handoff of power sometime during the summer. Jack also suggested that the new chairman delegate more responsibilities than current director has. Christopher volunteered to step into the chairman's shoes upon Jack's retirement.

Brief discussion on how to handle the brochure for Minuteman Bikeway, which is now out of print. Jack told us that the brochure needs a radical revision. Christopher asked whether it needs to be signed off on by all four towns along the path. We will also need to find a sponsor to pay for the printing.

*The April minutes were approved with two corrections.

Michael gave us an evaluation of the meeting from the point of view of a newcomer and we adjourned at 9:25.

*denotes a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller

