



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes of Aug. 3, 2009

ABAC Meeting Minutes for the August meeting, August 3, 2009.

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko, Brian Postlewaite and Michael Beck were also present

The meeting was called to order at 7:30

*The minutes from the June meeting were voted on and approved without correction.

Bike rack program—updates. The first installations have been completed in East Arlington. Scott reported that they were competently installed. There was also a multiple unit installation at the old Gibbs School. We realized that some of our chosen sites for rack installation in town have not yet been confirmed. We will have to see to that so that the installations can be completed.

Multi-community initiatives.

Alewife (Somerville) DCR shared used path. Brian asked what the current plans are for constructing these paths along the brook. Joey answered that the paths on both sides of the brook will be constructed at the same time. A possible problem is that the Selectmen have not yet approved the overall plan. Brian told us that the path will be 10 feet wide on the Somerville side which we all thought is a bit narrow. So far, there are no major design considerations for major intersections. Jack added that there will be no special crossing considerations for bikes and pedestrians.

Mystic Valley Parkway Bridge over the Alewife Brook (DCR project). Brian told us that the purpose of the DCR plans to widen the existing bridge from 56 to 64 feet is primarily so that the sidewalks can be made wider. He also told us that the Somerville Conservation Commission wants better pedestrian access to the Somerville side of the bridge. We discussed variations on the plans for the approaches to the bridge at length. Joey requested that this information be sent to the Arlington Conservation Commission.

Minuteman Bikeway Brochure. Joey asked what we want to do about the out of print Minuteman Bikeway Brochure. Christopher suggested that the brochure be put on the agenda of the next tri-town meeting.

Planning for Town Day—September 26, 2009. The space has been reserved and all the fees paid. Jack will get the Rubel Bike Maps for us to sell. Joey suggested that we display a map of existing and proposed bike parking in town. We will also hand out Arlington Bike Maps. We volunteered Chad Gibson to look into selling T-shirts. Michael suggested that we sell the book Pedaling Revolution. We will discuss staffing at the next meeting.

Fall bikeway tour. Christopher suggested that we replay the route we used for the spring tour. We then discussed dates—probably some time early in October. Joey will check with the police to see if they have a preferred date.

Lane sharing. Jeff is proposing the committee push for installing bike lanes on all streets that are being repaved and/or relined and have sufficient space. He feels that this will facilitate and encourage bicycle traffic.

Fund-raising efforts. Jeff gave us an update on T-shirt sales. There has been an additional \$300 in sales since his last report. This makes a total \$542.56 in funds deposited to the ABAC account raised through the shirt sales.

ABAC on the web. Jeff is working on the bicycling landing page for the town web site. The design has been modified and approved and should be posted soon. The town wants us to move the current ABAC web site to the official town site. We decided that we have some reservations. Jeff suggested that we need a snappy site which might be incompatible with the restrictions on the town site. Michael suggested that we should recruit someone with experience who lives in Arlington to help us. A subcommittee was formed to solve the problem. The committee consists of Jeff, Michael and Jack.

ABAC executive committee memberships. The Selectmen want an updated version of our bylaws and mission statement. We also discussed staggering the terms of the board members so that not all of us come up for renewal at the same time. Jeff recommended that we table this topic until the next meeting.

Board of Selectmen request for advice on traffic enforcement for cyclists. Scott suggested that we update the bicycle MassBike Bicycle Safety Brochure. We need to encourage bicyclists to follow the law. Everyone on the road should be following the same rules. Jeff suggested that we try to keep it simple and select a few areas on which to concentrate. Scott suggested the TAC/police liaison might be the person to contact in the police department. Someone else suggested that we might start with Chief Ryan. Stephan, Scott Joey and Michael are interested in participating.

Signs on the Bikeway. Once more, we discussed where we should install the Bikeway Hall of Fame signs. Jack suggested that the signs should be installed near the bikeway banners in Arlington Center and at the borders of the town. We would also like to ask the DPW to make signs directing people to

commercial areas along the path.

Fall bikeway cleanup. We discussed the wisdom of a fall cleanup because the leaves are still on the trees and it is more difficult to see than in the spring. We tabled this topic for the next meeting.

Mass. Ave. Corridor Project update. Scott told us that the project might be voted on at the next Selectmen's meeting. He also said that there has been considerable modification of the plans. The bicycle lanes have been retained and the current stoplights are being retained.

Stories and open forum. Michael told us about his Sunday Cappuccino Rides.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:38.

*denotes a vote of the board was taken.
Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller