



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes of Oct. 5, 2009

DRAFT ABAC Meeting Minutes for the October meeting, October 5, 2009.

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Jeff Roth and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko, Chad Gibson, Doug Greenfield and Michael (Mick) Beck were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

*The minutes from the September meeting were voted on and approved with multiple corrections.

Review of Town Day activities. Mick reviewed the efficiency of how we set up the table and also suggested that we be more selective in how we give out literature. Ron told us that he thought that traffic past the table was pretty steady for most of the day. He added that we sold more merchandise than we have before so we need to become more scrupulous in handling the money on site. Scott likes the idea of having the table in the same location every year and gave us some tips on efficient setup gleaned from his experience in setting up the TAC table. Chad commented that the most common comment he heard at the event was about bikes riding on the sidewalk.

Review of the Fall Bike Arlington Tour. During Town Day, many people told us that they were going to join the Tour but the weather was poor so the turnout was only moderate. In spite of the small turnout we sold five T-shirts. Mick told us that he sent pictures to the advocate in hopes of a little exposure. Ron voiced some misgivings about the safety of the ride. He felt that some participants were riding unsafely. We decided that we need to emphasize safe riding before and during our rides. Scott suggested that we scan the route of the next ride for "teachable moments."

Report on the Tri-Community Bike Committee Meeting held on September 28. Joey recapped the high points of the meeting which took place a few days ago. She told us that in addition to representatives from the three towns, Arlington, Lexington and Bedford, Belmont also attended. Belmont is working on a connector between Blanchard Rd. and Belmont Center which would connect Alewife to the Center. Lexington is concerned about traffic issues in East Lexington. Bedford wants paths extending from the end of the Minuteman to remain unpaved. Lexington also reported that they have more funds for plowing the path this winter. Chad told us that Bedford has decided that the default lane width in their town will be 11 feet. He also explained that there are different approaches to bicycle accommodations in the other towns. All the attendees felt that the other towns are more bike path centric. This led to a discussion of managing traffic at path-road intersections.

Discussing about the next Tri-Community Meeting. Next we discussed the fact that we will be hosting the next Tri-Community Meeting and the logistics we need to put in place in support of that meeting. Chad suggested that we declare our regular April meeting as the date of the Tri-Town Meeting. Nearly everyone agreed with Chad's suggestion.

Coordination of a day for a spring cleanup. Joey suggested that we should coordinate with other towns and think about a bike path cleanup earlier in the spring. We tabled this topic until the next meeting. We also decided that we will skip the spring bike tour and have an outreach table on the bike path some time during Bike Week.

Discussion of the redesign and reprinting of the Minuteman Bikeway Brochure. The Lexington committee has expressed some desire to update the brochure. We discussed the wisdom of this approach. Most of us liked the idea as long as we are able to review the results. Mick suggested that we get the Eagle Scouts involved! Jack will be the contact for this project.

Cyclists need to know more about traffic laws and regulations. We talked about whether it would be useful to invite a representative from the Arlington Police Department to a future meeting. We also discussed bike safety and general safety education in town. We specifically talked at length about bicycling on the sidewalks as it appears to be a flash point about bicycling in town. We felt that the bylaws regarding this topic are ambiguous and discussed what further actions are necessary to clarify or modify these laws.

Update of Mass. Ave. Redesign Project. Scott gave us an update on the current state of the project. The plans have been revised, approved by the Selectmen and submitted to MassHighway for review. The next step is a 25% design hearing produced by MassHighway. We spent some time discussing the best strategy for supporting the current design in the coming months. Scott also briefed us on plans for striping Park Ave. after it is repaved. He told us that there will be a seven foot parking lane to facilitate there being one travel lane in each direction. Mick asked why there are no bike lanes planned. Jack pointed out that the road is very wide and could easily accommodate bike lanes. Scott told us that the problem is that there are not enough resources to strip bike lanes at this time.

Hall of Fame signs. We had a brief discussion about the Hall of Fame signs recently installed on the bike path. Our reaction was that those of us who noticed the signs would like to see them in more conspicuous positions.

Update on the installation of bike racks. Joey informed us that a high percentage of the recently received racks were damaged in shipping. This means that there were no new racks installed this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

*denotes a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller