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Minutes, Oct. 2005

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for October 3, 2005

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Scott Smith, and Ted Packard. Pete Howard was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

*We approved the minutes from the September meeting.

Comments on recent events: (Arlington Town Day and Walkable Communities Workshop). We discussed the interest in our table at Town Day. There was substantially more interest than in previous years. We sold \$203 worth of books and maps. We agreed that the increased interest was at least partially due to gasoline prices. We also spent a few moments reiterating our position on plowing the Bike Path as this was a frequent question.

Scott told us that there was substantial attendance at the Walkable Communities Workshop. The group took a walk through Arlington Center and briefly discussed the Minuteman Bikeway crossing.

Update on report on bikeway safety issues, requested by the Board of Selectmen. Jack has finished the Bikeway Safety Report and will post it on the ABAC web site. The report will also be forwarded to the Selectmen. Scott suggested a follow up call to Jack Hurd to spotlight the memo.

Update on Mass. Ave. redesign project. Scott reminded that there is \$1.6M designated for the Mass. Ave. project and bicycle safety in the US Transportation Bill. The plan for the project has been sent to MassHighway by the Town. MassHighway requires documentation of community involvement. This was the impetus for ABAC writing a letter in support of the project.

The project will be split into three projects. Additional money is available for the Pleasant St. intersection because it is classed as a high accident intersection.

This intersection will be phase one. We discussed whether we want to make a request for provisions for a diagonal bikeway crossing in this phase.

Scott suggested pulling the bike-involved accident reports for this intersection to bolster our reports. Phase two of the project will be from Franklin St. to Route 16. We are recommending wide parking lanes and "sharrows" as the bicycle the accommodation. Pete mentioned that this project should also make provisions to maintain the markings.

Phase three of the project will run west of the Center to Mill St. The current thought is to make one lane in either direction from Jason St. west. The TAC will do more traffic counts before making the final recommendation. We also discussed that bicycle amenities be included in the final landscaping plans.

Status report on bicyclist/pedestrian counts in Arlington Center. Scott gave us in interim report on the survey. Pete volunteered to take additional counts during the morning rush. Additional counts are needed in the morning and evening especially on Saturday.

Updates on Bicycling Skills Class hosted in Arlington on Oct 14-15. Stephan volunteered to attend and assist on both Friday night and Saturday. Scott will attend on Friday night.

Discuss tentative plans for ABAC Winter Social. Possible date: Thursday, February 16. We had our annual discussion about who we should invite to speak at the Social. Ted suggested Gary Conic, 24 hr. mountain bike racer. Stephan reminded us that we made an extensive list of ideas for speakers in last year's minutes. Jack thought bike and road updates or some light education such as hints about bike commuting would be appropriate. Jack will look into a venue. The Senior Center or the Whittemore-Robbins house are possibilities.

Open forum:

Bikeway Plowing. We received an e-mail advocating plowing the bikeway in

winter. We had the usual discussion on the topic. Pete suggested a Vision 2020 survey question on this subject. Jack will contact Joey Glushko about formulating a question.

Safe Routes to School. Ted brought up a point about mapping a safe route to the Ottoson School from the Bike Path. Scott suggested that this problem be made into an official TAC project. We need to write a letter to the selectmen to start this project. Scott added that we should extend the traffic count project to this area.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34

*Denotes a vote of the board was taken

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.