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Minutes, Dec. 2004

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for December 6, 2004

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Stephan Miller, Christopher Tonkin, and Ron Sender. Others present were Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Carr-Jones, Parris Kellerman, Anne Lusk, Don Mitchell, Bobby Mac, Liam Twomey, Pat Twomey, and Joy Ahearn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

There were introductions all around, and a few of us talked about bicycle conversations and experiences of the last month.

The minutes were approved with two amendments.*

Proposal for an improved bikeway crossing in Arlington Center (Anne Lusk, Harvard School of Public Health). Anne Lusk has been working with members of ABAC and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) on developing prototypes for improving pedestrian and bicycling access. She has obtained grant funding for improved bikeway signage in Arlington Center as well as some other projects in Town. This project could include bikeway stencils on the sidewalk and road and informational/instructional signs at bikeway endpoints in the Center. ABAC will help coordinate with other Town officials and advise on any sign and stencil placement. Anne suggested that larger, more versatile signs should go at the ends of the path in Arlington Center.

The design work for this project will take place this winter. Joey informed us that there are sign guidelines for linear parks like the bikeway. We need to consult with the DPW and possibly Parks and Recreation before finalizing the design.

Jack indicated the need to inform the Selectmen about this project. Scott suggested that Anne should develop a timeline for the project. Ron thought that we should consider longevity and maintenance in designing the signs so they will last.

Bikeway safety/traffic issues. The Mill St., Lake St. and Arlington Center crossings of the bikeway are currently dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Selectmen have asked us to work on recommendations for improving both bicyclists' and motorists' awareness of traffic safety at these intersections.

Jack suggested spinning off a subcommittee to deal with this problem. Bobby, Ron, Parris, Jack, Joey, and Stephan volunteered to serve.

We agreed that Mill St. is the most dangerous bikeway crossing in town.

Jack gave the example of the Four Seasons driveway on the bikeway in Lexington, with "Dangerous Intersection" signs recently installed facing the bikeway.

Jack thought that traffic signals are not feasible at Mill or Lake Streets. Joey suggested a sensor controlled flashing light to warn motorists of approaching bicyclists or pedestrians.

Elizabeth thought that we need to make these path intersections more visible to motorists, especially the Mill St. crossing. We discussed ways to achieve visibility.

Joey suggested a sign in the middle of the road or a raised intersection. Jack suggested the possibility of a mini-island in the center of the street to warn and calm motorists.

Bobby pointed out that the Cape Cod Rail-Trail is very busy with many crossings and we should take a look at what is being done down there.

Lastly, we discussed possibly handing out citations/prizes to bikeway users for correct behavior at dangerous intersections to help educate and encourage bikeway users to cross intersections safely. This topic will be continued in subcommittee.

Bicycling to School and Vision 2020 questions. Jack formulated three general

questions for the Vision 2020 questionnaire. Ron thought that we should work with the schools to provide bicycle education at the same time as promoting bicycling to school. Joey suggested a bike ride at the beginning of the school year for all the students in the middle school.

ABAC Winter Social. Jack reserved the Whittemore-Robbins House for the evening of February 17. The agenda will include an update about ABAC activities, an introduction to BRFOP given by Bruce Lederer, and a brief talk by Bobby Mac on the Quad Cycle club rides. Jack has also invited David Herlihy, author of the new book, *The Bicycle*, to speak. A suggestion was made to ask Linda Guttman to donate some of her local cocoa as a refreshment.

Bicycle Film Festival. There is lot of enthusiasm for this project idea. Lauren Hefferon recently suggested that we try to lure the New York/San Francisco Bicycle Film Festival to Arlington. A suggestion was made to have the festival during the Cyclocross Championships in Boston. The championships will probably take place in Eastern Massachusetts for the next two years.

Bicycle parking sites. A proposed bike rack at the Arlington Senior Center will be installed in the spring. Bike racks have been installed at McClennen Park. Jack reminded us about the bike-parking brochure we were going to develop.

Bike Arlington Tour. We chose May 22 as the date of this year's tour. Jack will send out a press release, including the date.

The Renaissance Health Clinic in East Arlington is interested in sponsoring a local bike ride. Jack will follow up with them regarding what type of event they would like to sponsor or participate in.

Action items from the last minutes. Ron checked to see if there is a new version of the Bikeway Video. There is indeed a new version that is 52 minutes long.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

*Denotes that a vote was taken.