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Minutes, May 2004

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for May 3, 2004

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Ted Packard, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, and Xtopher Tonkin. Others present were Joey Glushko, Parris Kellermann, Bobby Mac, Dan O'Connell, David White, and Joe Snodgrass (notes).

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Introductions were made.

Local conversations about bicycling featured many positive experiences, fostered by recent fine weather. Bobby Mac mentioned that he will begin leading afternoon rides at 3PM on both Saturdays and Sundays leaving from Quad Cycles. These afternoon rides are slower paced than the morning fitness/training rides, which leave at 9:30 AM on Saturday and Sundays from Quad Cycles.

Minutes from the April 5, 2004 ABAC meeting were accepted without amendment.

Potential **Arlington pathway projects** involving Anne Lusk (Harvard School of Public Health) were discussed. Anne has an interest in creating new bike pathways as a means of promoting public health. She would like to take on some smaller design projects with relatively short timeframes (summer 2004). The likely difficulty of obtaining jurisdictional approvals in time for the current grant cycle was recognized. However, several possible projects were suggested:

1. Bikeway extension near Carberrys/Cambridge Savings Bank. Scott mentioned that this had been discussed at the Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. Enthusiasm to pursue the project waned because of 1) sidepath issues, 2) anticipated objections from local businesses to a loss of parking spaces. Discussion of this project has however increased scrutiny on the Arlington Center intersection, arguably the worst traffic problem on the Minuteman Bikeway.
2. Bikeway extension projects near the Alewife terminus of the Minuteman Bikeway.
3. Court Street Place, off Court Street in Arlington Center (near Arlington Post Office).
4. Park Avenue Bridge.
5. Entryway to Minuteman Bikeway at Bow Street (see below).
6. Entryway to Minuteman Bikeway at Brattle, off Washington Street.
7. Bikeway connections from Summer Street to Mystic Valley Parkway.
8. Right-of-way from Mass Ave, next to Sunrise Assisted Living, to bikeway over Mill Brook near Arlington Coal and Lumber.
9. Restoration of the bike path next to Spy Pond (adjacent to Rte 2 rampways).

ACTION ITEM 1: Jack will contact Anne to discuss these ideas.

Final plans for the **BIKE-Arlington Tour and Alternative Transportation Festival**, happening on Sunday/May 16, were discussed. This year, the Bike Tour will focus on the Minuteman Bikeway and connecting paths, and the use of these paths for transportation alternatives. Final details of the route were discussed. Bike tour starts at 9:30 AM Sunday May 16th at Alewife T Station, setting off on Linear Path to Mass Ave for a stop to discuss adjoining paths and destinations. Route retraces way back to Alewife, on to Magnolia field to regroup and hear about current ABAC projects. Final leg of route takes Minuteman back to Arlington Center, where Anne Lusk will speak at the Jefferson Cutter House.

Participants will be invited to ride to the Rec center for the Alternative Transportation Festival and Bike Rodeo, which starts at noon. Joe Snodgrass has arranged participants from the Drumming Connection to perform at the festival. Bobby Mac agreed to help at the Bike Rodeo.

The developer of the Rowsell Development property at Park Ave / Lowell Street has voluntarily offered to renovate the **bikeway entrance ramp at Bow Street**. David White presented two possible site plans created by Cathy Garnett. A materials estimate of ~\$8-11K was also provided. Design goals include making the entrance more attractive, more easily accessible for bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchairs (regrading). There is a also recurring problem with a wide swinging gate owned by the

Security Fence Company, which encroaches on the public bikeway entrance ramp at Bow Street.

ACTION ITEM 2: Jack will put David White in touch with the Rowsell developer/contractor. David will provide copies of the rampway landscaping plans.

ACTION ITEM 3: Jack will discuss Security Fence encroachment issue with his neighbor and Joey to identify the most constructive approach to revisiting the issue with Security Fence.

Jack and Joey attended a public meeting for the **Rowsell Development property at Park Ave / Lowell Streets**. Approval for a 20-25 housing unit is pending. Developer does not want public access to the bike path but does want to create a private entrance for resident access. Plans may require a bridge over the No Name Brook for this bikeway connection. Conservation Commission has not yet put forth an opinion on this issue.

There are plans to open **Ryder Street** for emergency access, which intersects the bikeway.

ACTION ITEM 4: ABAC should get ideas on this to DPW before changes are implemented at Ryder St. Jack will discuss with Joey. Some urgency because implementation may start soon.

Bicycling drive-through restrictions at town banks (ATMs and tellers) were discussed. Some ambivalence was expressed over the importance of this issue. There was general consensus however that any restriction targeting bicyclists and bicycling as a legitimate transportation choice is problematic.

ACTION ITEM 5: Ted Packard will survey town banks with drive-through facilities to determine "bike friendliness" profiles.

BMX bike access to the proposed **skateboard park at McClennen Park / Reed's Brook** was discussed. General feeling was that ABAC should advocate for inclusion of BMX bike access to the skateboard park.

ACTION ITEM 6: Ted Packard will attend May 13 meeting at Town Hall to learn more about the plans for the skateboard park and BMX bike access.

Quick topics and updates:

Jack requests that any appropriate **local bicycle-related web links** be forwarded to him for possible inclusion on the ABAC website.

Town Meeting Article 5, which added bicycle parking consideration as a line item to a checklist for new developments, passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM 7: Jack will look into a **bicycle parking issue at Fitness First** (Mass Ave), raised by Bobby Mac.

ACTION ITEM 8: Jack will contact Mass Highway in a proactive effort to minimize the time the Minuteman Bikeway will be disrupted due to bikeway-surface repaving upon completion of the **Route 2 bridge** (target date for completion July 31).

ACTION ITEM 9: Ron will complete his part of the **bikeway edge survey**. Stephan was coordinating these efforts.

There is a May 12th public meeting on the **Cambridge-Somerville-Belmont bikeway connector**. Jack hopes to attend.

ACTION ITEM 10: We will look into improvements to the **Pond Lane** bikeway access ramp.