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Minutes, Sept.2004

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for September 13, 2004

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Ted Packard, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, and Christopher Tonkin. Others present were Parris Kellerman and Doug Greenfield.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

Introductions and conversations about bicycling.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved without amendment*

Review of Town Day

We discussed the fact that some folks had trouble finding our table. Christopher suggested that we should raise the banner so that we can place the table under it. Jack thought that the whole thing went very smoothly. We sold \$212 worth of maps and books. We only sold two trail patches. We will evaluate whether to sell the patches next year. We thought that next year we should have bicycle registration forms again.

Biking to School Subcommittee

We discussed various plans to get Arlington to implement a bike to school plan. Who should we speak to and how to get support of parent groups.

ACTION ITEM: Ted will contact the relevant Principals and ask that they amend their handbooks to include the possibility of biking to school.

We decided to hook up with one elementary school as a pilot project. Ted suggested the Hardy School as it is in East Arlington which lacks hills. There is also a new Principal. Parris suggested that we concentrate on the Peirce School because it is near McClennen Park (and new skateboard park).

ACTION ITEM: Find out whether the plans for the Dallin School include a bike rack. Ted asked if we should contact the school committee. We should also find out who the new Town Safety Officer is. Parris asked if there are any relevant state laws.

ACTION ITEM: Ted will find out who in MassBike can help us, Ted will inform us when he finds a school and principal to start with.

Spy Pond Pathway Project

Next spring there will be a major cleanup around Spy Pond. There is a group looking into repaving and improving the Spy Pond Path. The path will be restored to its full width (6 ft?). The group working on the path is affiliated with Vision 2020's Spy Pond Committee.

Symmes Bicycle/Pedestrian Issues

We discussed the question of how to connect the Symmes Development with the Bike Path. Doug suggested that there be bicycle storage placed at the bottom of the hill because it is unlikely that many will be riding their bicycles up the hill. A pedestrian shuttle was also suggested. Some form of bike and pedestrian access are imperative as a means of traffic mitigation.

Bicycle Friendly Community

We again took up the discussion on what Arlington needs to do to achieve this designation. Jack is working on defining the problem. Parris asked for a clarification on what the criteria are and if they are different for different regions of the country and/or different types of communities.

Bike Path Cleanup

Stephan gave us a short summary of the cleanup efforts over the past two months. Efforts have centered mainly of controlling knotweed and clearing overhanging vegetation in the East Arlington section. The final cleanup this fall will be on Saturday, October 2.

MassBike's Annual Bike Night

Ted suggested that we organize a bike ride to Bike Night starting at Carberry's on Mon/Oct 18. Ted and Jack were interested in organizing this group ride to the event. We reviewed the action items from last months minutes and Jack opened the meeting for other topics. Jack then showed us a few pictures of his bike trip in France.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35

*Denotes issues on which a vote was taken.