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Minutes, Oct. 2004

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for October 4, 2004

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Introductions and conversations about bicycling.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved with changes.*

Local attendance at MassBike Bike Night Party.

Ted and Jack will organize a group ride to this event.

Update/Discussion from Bicycling to School subcommittee.

Recently there was a notice distributed at the Hardy School prohibiting biking to school.

Ted talked with the principal who was concerned about children riding bikes on the playground before school. Jack suggested that Ted do a follow up with that principal.

Jack also pointed out that some of the elementary school principals are also concerned about the safety of the children while they are riding to and from school. We discussed whether Arlington could get the support of MassBike and other organizations for a bike to school pilot program. Ron felt that Arlington is not representative of towns in Massachusetts in its geography or density so perhaps it is not the best town for a pilot of this nature.

Ron asked what the bike to school rules are in other towns across the state. Ted volunteered to find out what these policies are in other towns in the Boston area

ACTION ITEM: Ted will get information on bike to school policies in other towns in the Boston area.

Ted asked us to define pilot project. Jack said that we should start by defining bike parking rules—whether bikes should be parked on or off of school property. We would like to change the policy of the schools about discouraging biking to school.

Scott suggested that we outline a bicycle education program to make sure that some instruction is given to students about safe riding. Stephan asked about using the health benefit point of view to draw in parents and educators and to help find a possible source of funding. Parris asked if the Police could give the lectures at the schools. Ron told us that we should deal with the school councils and also talk to the administrators and School Committee. Ron also reminded us that the current Superintendent is enthusiastic about the idea of bicycle education in the schools.

Roadway transportation issues.

Scott filled us in on the ongoing study by the TAC about pedestrian and bicycle access to the Symmes site.

Bikeway cleanups update.

Stephan summarized the last two bikeway cleanups sponsored by ABAC and Arlington Green Streets. He also informed us that the last cleanup of the season will be on October 2. Ron and Jack asked if the DPW will be cleaning the leaves off the path this fall.

ACTION ITEM: Ron will talk to the DPW about cleaning the leaves this fall.

Parris asked if there is a place on the path where information about the path can be obtained. Currently there is not. Stephan brought up the project to place directional signs on the path near Arlington Center. Jack told us that he has not heard anything about the project for some time. Jack also mentioned the Wald memorial and the need for a cleanup in that area.

ABAC Winter Social.

We decided on the same venue and discussed possible speakers. Some suggestions were Mike Flanagan, transportation bikes; Bruce Lederer, Bike Rides for Ordinary People; someone to speak on bike advocacy such as Anne Paulsen or someone from MassBike. We will plan the event for a Thursday evening in February.

Open forum.

Jack informed us that there are registration issues on the Topica ABAC list, indicating that Topica has started asking for personal information. This might be an e-mail spoof.

We reviewed the action items from the last meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

*Denotes issues on which a vote was taken.

Submitted by Stephan Miller.