

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes for March 3, 2003

Committee members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Christopher Tonkin, Ted Packard, Scott Smith and Ron Sender. Others present Matt Mandel, Paulo Marinelli, Walter Mayne, Marci Malaster, Pete Howard, Bobby Mac and Rustem Goede.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted without modification.

Introductions around the room.

Bikeway Workshop. Marci Malaster from Rails to Trails gave us an overview of what they will need from us for Minute Man Bikeway workshop. We must decide on an exact beginning and end points and when lunch will be. Jack recommended that the participants have lunch on the bus before arriving at the start of the ride. Marci pointed out that we must have liability waivers for all participants including those from ABAC for both Rails to Trails and the bike shop supplying the bicycles. She also asked us to identify contact people from ABAC. Information about the conference is on line at www.railtrails.org/traillink2003/.

Jack presented us with a rough agenda for the tour. It is possible that we should cut the ride short in order to do more talking. We debated how long it will take to fit forty bikes to forty participants. Rustem volunteered to help.

Walter suggested splitting up into two groups of twenty each. That way one group could be fitted while the other is enjoying an introductory talk. The talks will potentially be about railroad history at the Bedford end, colonial history in Lexington and Bikeway maintenance in Arlington.

Discussion about where there is enough space near Alewife for the bus and trucks for hauling the bicycles. Matt suggested that there should be a sag wagon in case of injury or mechanical problems. Ron asked what will be done if the weather is bad. Jack answered that slight weather such as a very light rain will not cause a cancellation. A monsoon would cancel the ride but the tour will be done by bus.

Warrant Article. Joey informed us that she has contacted Beth Ryan to get the Chamber of Commerce view and possibly to speak in favor of the article. The presentation to Town Meeting still needs to be planned. Joey suggested a subcommittee to plan a few pages of information. Pete asked if we were planning to give a short presentation at the Warrant Article Preview.

Grant Proposals. Jack asked us to narrow down the suggestions we made last month. He suggested that the bike rack proposal might be a simple grant to write and a good place to start. Marci added that we should lump several of these projects together to make the grant more substantial and more worth our time.

Updates.

Scott gave an update on the Rt. 16 signal changes and suggested a grant proposal for planning bicycle facilities in the Lake St. to Varnum St. area. Joey gave an overview of the progress of the Rt. 2a improvements. Jack told us that there is no Bike Rodeo planned for this year and perhaps we could step in and plan one for next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm