

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of March 18, 2015

Approved April 15, 2015

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, Doug Greenfield, Ron Sender and Stephan Miller. Phil Goff was absent. Also in attendance were Elizabeth Shea, Stephen Quinn, Joey Glushko and Officers Robert Gallagher and Bob Smith of the Arlington Police

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

*The minutes for the February 18 meeting were accepted after some corrections were made.

Introductions and greetings were made all around the table.

Review of the ABAC Winter Social held March 4, 2015. Scott and the rest of Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) thought that the Social went very well. Jack mentioned the good turn out and told us that, in his experience, the panel discussion was at the quality level of a national event. Doug thought the introductions of the panelists were too long, detracting from the overall program. Rod thought that there was a good diversity of views. Joey liked the venue and the social nature of the event. Jack asked how much it cost and Christopher answered that it was \$100 for the refreshments and the room will be free as there were enough drinks sold. We thought we should have next year's social at the same place.

COBWEB officers introduction. The officers suggested that we should install some navigational signs to direct the police in case of emergency situations on the Bikeway. He wasn't sure what could be done, but we discussed several alternatives such as street signs and mile markers. We agreed that there is a need for markers that facilitate getting to emergencies really fast. Scott told us that the Signs Working Group of the Tri-Community Bikeway Committee is planning signs for marking intersections and distances. Jack mentioned the confusion caused by Arlington's Great Meadows sign in Lexington. Joey suggested the name of the town be put on each Bikeway sign. Joey added that the signs should be placed in a position where people riding bicycles can see them.

Doug and Christopher asked about the police sponsored bicycle safety programs in the Arlington Schools. Officer Smith told us to contact Captain Curran or Detective Porciello of the Arlington Police for that information.

National Bike Summit presentation. Jack gave us a very informative presentation on the NBS he recently attended in Washington D.C.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) report:

Roadway marking guidelines for approval by the Board of Selectmen (BoS). Scott handed out the TAC approved Roadway Marking Guidelines. The next step is to get them approved by the BoS. He also told us that the next streets to be repaved are sections of Medford and Lowell Streets. He also informed us that the BoS recently approved The Complete Streets Warrant Article proposed by the Planning Department. Scott added that the state guidelines on which the article is based are not yet available so this might be problematic. Joey told us that the Town Master Plan is the last warrant article up for approval and it contains much that is pro-bicycle.

Signalizing Lake St/Bikeway intersection. The TAC would like to see some serious evaluation of the traffic on Lake St. before traffic lights are installed at the Bikeway intersection. This will be done early in the spring. Scott asked for some volunteers to help take counts at the intersection.

Memorial for Bobby Mac. The Bobby Mac Memorial has been approved by the BoS. There will be a plaque placed somewhere along the Bikeway in his honor. Joey suggested mounting the plaque on a piece of granite, which could possibly be supplied by the DPW for free. Jack said that we need to see a plan for where the memorial will be located so we can make sure that it will be safe and visible. There will be a memorial ride in April 4, leaving from Quad Cycles and riding into Lexington and back. Jack asked if there could be a police escort for the ride, which will be on the road. Christopher suggested that there be a registration process so that the number of participants could be predicted. ABAC thought that police supervision would be a good idea if there is a good crowd.

Bikeway Cleanup. Stephan told us that he has sent out preliminary notification of the Spring Bikeway Cleanup to be held on Saturday, April 18. Joey reminded him to call the DPW and inform them about the event and ask for trash pickup afterwards.

User counts at the Bikeway in Arlington Center and on Mass. Ave. near Rt. 16. The dates for the counts this year will be May 9th and 12th. Joey asked for volunteers and got a good response.

BIKEArlington Tour to be held on Sunday May 17. We discussed possible routes for this year's Tour. Christopher explained that we need a relatively flat route because of the diversity of participants. Jack suggested riding into Lexington around the reservoir past the farm to Summer St. Christopher suggested we visit the Window on the Mystic Park. Jack thought that we should go out and test potential routes. We decided that Jack will head a task group to ride potential routes sometime in the next few weeks.

Other Topics

Sanding and salting of the Bikeway. There has been a request for salting and sanding the Bikeway. Salting is not done because, when the Bikeway was constructed through wetlands, it was decided that no salt could be used to melt snow in the winter. Scott thought that we should add a section to the Bikeway Website outlining the procedure for asking for Bikeway maintenance in the three towns. We thought that this topic should be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Tri-Town Bikeway Committee.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller