

Minutes of the February 16, 2017 meeting of the Minuteman 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

Meeting Chair: Nat Strosberg, town planner

Members in attendance: Joey Glushka, Charlie McCabe, Christopher Tonkin, Andrew Feller (secretary)

Also in attendance: Peggy Enders, chair of the Lexington Bike Committee

The Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm

#### I. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

The first order of business was approval of the minutes from the prior meeting. Joey asked that a list of the various working groups be added to the minutes. Nat agreed to add those. The minutes, as amended by the addition of the working groups, were then approved.

#### II. Working Group Updates

Committee members then shared progress reports for their working groups:

##### A. History Working Group

Andrew described the overall focus on the working group, to organize two lectures, one by Alan McLennan in conjunction with the Arlington Bike Committee ("ABC"), focusing on the history of the Minuteman Bikeway, and one in conjunction with the Arlington Historical Society ("AHS"), focusing on the history of the railroad that ran on the tracks that were converted to the bikeway.

Andrew provided an update on discussions with AHS. He noted that Stuart Brorson, the president of AHS, is a train enthusiast and had happily agreed to do the lecture, and was flexible on timing. Andrew noted that he would be meeting with Stuart in the near future to discuss details.

Joey noted that she had spoken with McLennan, who expressed some concern about whether the lecture could be done in conjunction with the planned winter social for the ABC, and had suggested the possibility of doing it in connection with National Bike Month in May. Christopher suggested the possibility of moving the ABC social to the Spring, and having the lecture then. He noted that Bike to Work week is May 13-22, and raised the possibility of having the AHS lecture around the same time.

Christopher also noted that he had contacted the Lexington and Bedford Bike Clubs, and that he could discuss with them the possibility of doing additional lectures, including one about the newly approved extension to the bikeway past Bedford. Further discussion ensued about the possibility of contacting and coordinating with the Lexington and Bedford Historical Societies in connection with the AHS lecture.

Peggy noted that the Beverly Historical Society has a large collection of railroad-related materials. She further noted that the Bedford Depot may possess some photographs of the train that ran along the bikeway railpath.

#### B. Nature Working Group

Andrew noted that the Nature Working Group (Andrew F., Andrew M., and Brucie) had met to discuss possible activities, and provided an overview of the group's top ideas, which were:

1. A guided bird walk along part of the bikeway. Some discussion ensued of the logistical requirements, including the suggestion that the distance not be too long, and that stopping points be places where a crowd would not block the bike path.
2. A guided foraging walk along the bikeway. Andrew noted that Arlington resident Russ Cohen is a well-known expert on foraging, and would be ideal to lead the walk. Brucie will be reaching out to Cohen.
3. Production of a map of the biomes along the path. Andrew M. will explore possibilities with local university ecology programs who may be interested in assisting.
4. A collection of nature-focused photos of the bike path. The possibility of soliciting photos from local residents was discussed, as was the possibility of an on-line photo collection.

After Andrew's update, Joey raised the possibility of a broader photo contest relating to the bike path.

Nat noted that the Open Space Committee might be interested in some of the nature initiatives, and said that he would raise the topic with them.

#### C. Rails-to-Trails Working Group

Charlie reported that he had spoken to Peter Harnik, the founder of Rails-to-Trails, and that Harnik has a trip scheduled to New England. Charlie also spoke with the regional staff of Rails-to-Trails, and discussed with them the possibility of some recognition of the Minuteman 25 by the organization.

The group discussed the idea of having Rails-to-Trails appear at one end of the end-to-end ride. Peggy Enders said she is familiar with Tom Sexton of Northeast Rails to Trails, and suggested him as a possibility to appear. Peggy also raised the possibility of the doing the end-to-end ride as a multi-town effort. Nat suggested she coordinate with the members of the end-to-end ride working group.

A discussion then ensued regarding the potential timing for the end-to-end ride. The group felt that September or early October was the ideal timing, considering weather and other town events.

#### D. T-Shirt Working Group

Joey showed two examples of potential fabrics that could be used, and noted that cyclists prefer non-cotton t-shirts.

Joey then said the questions that needed to be answered to move forward with t-shirts were:

- Design;
- Weight;
- Whether there should be separate fits for male and female; and
- Whether there should be kid sizes.

The group briefly discussed potential designs, including the possibility of using the Minuteman logo along with some notation of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was noted that the logo is in the public domain, and therefore would not require a licensing fee.

A decision was made to table discussion of the open questions on t-shirts until the next meeting, when there might be more members in attendance.

Additional questions were raised about how t-shirts would be financed and what they would cost to sell, as well as whether any would be given away. Joey noted the need for up-front financing for design and manufacture. Joey will investigate costs by contacting Bay State Silk Screen and will present at the next meeting. Christopher was aware of another possible printer and said he will identify that entity for Joey. Nat said he would explore the availability of funding from the town, but first wants an idea of cost.

Nat raised the idea of on-demand ordering. Charlie volunteered to investigate the feasibility of that option.

Christopher observed that color and design are critical to creating demand for a t-shirt.

#### E. Art Working Group

Nat read an email from working group member Linda Shoemaker (absent with apologies). The email is available on the Committee's Dropbox site.

Charlie discussed the possibility of organizing participatory activities, such as chalk drawings by children on the bike path. He also discussed the idea of sponsoring an art project incorporating found objects from the trail. He said he was familiar with some artists who might do it.

Peggy Enders noted that there was some discussion in Lexington of an Art Walk on the bikeway. One possibility is to wrap trees in yarn as a community project. She raised the possibility of extending this into Arlington.

### III. Goals Moving Forward

Nat listed the goals for the upcoming period:

- Obtaining a cost estimate for t-shirts so he could be in a position to discuss potential funding availability with Dan Dunn;
- Solidifying dates for the historical lectures
- End-to-End ride working group to connect with Peggy Enders and discuss incorporating various events (e.g. Rails-to-Trails appearance) into the ride schedule
  - Christopher noted the need to get police buy-in and support for the ride.

### IV. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for March 16, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.