



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Community Relations Minutes 12/16/2008**

Approved Minutes

**Community Relations Subcommittee**  
**December 16, 2008 – Meeting #10**  
**-Minutes-**

In attendance: Jeff Thielman, Subcommittee Chair  
Sue Sheffler, Subcommittee Member  
Ron Spangler, Subcommittee Member

Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent

Clarissa Rowe, Chair, Board of Selectmen  
Joey Glushko, Planning Department, Town of Arlington  
Scott Smith, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Roseann Casazza, President, Traffic Supervisors Union  
Linda Carella, Traffic Supervisor  
Catherine B. Crowley, Traffic Supervisor  
Claire Horan, Traffic Supervisor  
Kathleen Koiketos, Traffic Supervisor  
Joe Maslace, Traffic Supervisor  
Jim McDonald, Traffic Supervisor  
Rose Murphy, Substitute Traffic Supervisor  
Joan Preval, Traffic Supervisor  
Willie Smith, Traffic Supervisor

Eric Aranow, Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC)  
Dan Chadwick, Hardy parent  
Andrew Conway, Arlington resident and parent  
Chad Gibson, Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC)  
Phil Goff, East Arlington Livable Streets Coalition  
Lauren Heffernan, Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC)  
Sarah Huber, Thompson parent  
Julie Idlet, Editor, "Cycle Kids"  
Ashby Loshin, student  
Peter Loshin, Ottoson/Peirce parent  
Paulo Marinelli, Arlington resident  
Jeff Roth, Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee  
David Watson, Executive Director, Mass Bike

Adria Arch, Arlington Center for the Arts  
William Rowe, Arlington Business Owner

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. The minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting were approved. **Motion by Sue Sheffler, second by Jeff Thielman.**

**Approved 2-0-1. (Mr. Spangler did not attend the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and abstained).**

2. Eric Aranow and Lauren Hefferon presented a pilot proposal for a bike to school program at the Hardy School. The program kick off would be in March of 2009. Eric and Lauren said that a limited and controlled pilot would be the best way to demonstrate and lay the groundwork for safe bicycling to school in Arlington's elementary schools. Main points of the presentation:

- a. The program would be evaluated at the end of the year, be overseen by a committee that includes parents and representatives of the school, adhere to a set of ground rules for safety and good conduct, and be assessed in terms of the level of participation, adherence to safety rules and traffic laws, effects on traffic, and feedback from stakeholder groups.
- b. The objectives of the pilot are to demonstrate that cycling to school can be done safely, show that cycling can reduce traffic in school areas during pick-up and drop-off, educate the community about the benefits of safe cycling, demonstrate interest, convey a positive message (endorsed by the school) about cycling as a means for fitness and transport, and gather data on the above that will inform future plans.
- c. There are five elements to the pilot:
  - Ø Education: educating children and adults about bike safety.
  - Ø Engineering: bicycle racks, signage, maps, dismount zones, field checking road conditions.
  - Ø Encouragement: activities to encourage children and parents to choose alternatives to driving.
  - Ø Enforcement: way to ensure ground rules are observed.
  - Ø Evaluation: measurement of the program.
- d. Key Ground Rules
  - Ø Students bike to and from school only when accompanied by an adult.
  - Ø Students and parents agree to dismount and walk their bicycles when entering any dismount zone identified in the map.
  - Ø No bicycle riding is permitted on school grounds.
  - Ø Students and parents agree to abide by town and state laws governing bicycling.
- e. Education Programs
  - Ø Eric and Lauren said there are two programs to choose from:
    1. Cycle Kids which serves students in Cambridge (500 elementary students), Somerville (150 elementary students), New York City (300 elementary students). The programs involve a physical education teacher and a parent or police officer in these programs.
    2. Mass Bike program which provides training through the Mass Safe Routes to Schools program.
  - f. The presenters noted that the Transportation Advisory Committee analyzed crashes between 1990 and 2002. They reported that 1.8% of the crashes in town during that period involved bikes and no bike fatalities. In the pilot program, bike routes to school would not include Lake Street and Massachusetts Avenue.
  - g. The presentation included testimonies from Stoneham, Reading, Canton, and Washington, DC.
  - h. Eric and Lauren reviewed a map around the Hardy School where students would ride to school. They noted that over the past four years there has been one accident involving a bicyclist on the side streets in the designated area for riding to the Hardy School.

3. Bike to School Discussion

- a. Joey Glushko from the town planning department said the department and the Board of Selectmen have supported and encouraged biking in the town.
- b. Scott Smith of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) said the group has not yet heard the formal proposal but will at a meeting on January.
- c. Clarissa Rowe, Chair of the Board of Selectmen said the Board has not seen the proposal, but she was present today to hear the proposal. She said the Board had referred the issue to TAC for advice. She noted that the town is installing bike racks at various points throughout the community. Ms. Rowe also said she likes the idea of parents biking to school with their children, but understands that many details of the program need to be addressed. She said a solution may be placing a bicycle rack outside of school grounds.
- d. Rose Casazza said the traffic supervisors are opposed to a bike program. She said that the traffic supervisors' responsibility is to cross children and adults accompanying children. Ms. Casazza explained that a bike is a motor vehicle, even if it is being walked, and the traffic supervisors are not hired to manage motor vehicle traffic. She feels that given the town by-law that prohibits children from riding on sidewalks, allowing children to ride bicycles to school is dangerous. She added that the traffic on the bike path makes the path dangerous for children who are riding bicycles.
- e. David Watson of Mass Bike and Scott Smith of the Transportation Advisory Committee noted that per Chapter 85, Section 11B of Massachusetts General Laws a person walking a bicycle is a pedestrian, entitled to the same protection under the law as all pedestrians.
- f. Interim Superintendent Kathleen Bodie said that she and the principals continue to have concern about the safety of elementary school children who would like to ride their bikes to school.
- g. Sue Sheffler asked if there was any common ground. Could a bicycle rack be placed outside of school grounds? Would the supervisors and principals be open to trying the pilot for three months as the group proposed? The traffic supervisors said they were not open to this possibility.

- h. Eric Aranow said that placing the bike rack outside of school would not erase the need for the principal's support of the three-month pilot program. He said the idea of the pilot is for people to be open-minded, support rather than undermine the experiment, and see if the program is workable.
- i. Jeff Thielman said the group should next take the proposal to the Transportation Advisory Committee for its input. TAC meets on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m.
- j. Note: Attached to the minutes please find a letter from Philip Goff, Chair of the East Arlington Livable Streets Coalition, and the presentation made at the meeting.
4. Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA) Director Adria Arch said her group has distributed materials throughout the district for many years per Policy KHC, which permits the superintendent to allow such distribution. Interim Superintendent Bodie declined to permit the distribution of ACA materials this year. She said she would take the request under advisement.
5. William Rowe said he had concerns about vandalism allegedly by students from Arlington Public Schools at his building on Water Street. He said that the school department has not cooperated in the investigation, and the vandalism, mostly graffiti, has continued. Ms. Bodie agreed to meet with Mr. Rowe to learn more.
6. There was no new business.
7. There was no old business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. **The next meeting will take place at the Brackett School on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. An agenda item for the meeting will be improvements to the area around the Brackett.**

Non-School Committee member attendees at today's meeting – contact information

Name	Affiliation	Email
Paolo Marinelli	Arlington Resident	<a href="mailto:pmarinelli54cm@yahoo.com">pmarinelli54cm@yahoo.com</a>
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Clarissa Rowe	Chair, Board of Selectmen	<a href="mailto:clarissa.rowe@comcast.net">clarissa.rowe@comcast.net</a>
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Jim McDonald	Traffic Supervisor	
Katherine Koiketos	Traffic Supervisor	
Joe Maslace	Traffic Supervisor	