

**Cambridge Bicycle Committee**  
**January 14, 2009**  
**NOTES**

**Present:** Jenni Alden, Rosalie Anders (CDD), Viola Augustin, John Burckardt, Joan Friebely, Ken Field (chair), Catharine Hornby, Aaron Ladd, Sgt Kathy Murphy, C.R. Rogers, Adam Serafin (MIT), Peter Stokes (prospective member), Gerry Swislow, Walter Willett.

**I. Minutes, Agenda Review, Introductions**

1. December minutes approved.
2. No additions to agenda
3. Introductions
- 4.

**II. Reports, Updates, and Announcements**

**A. Project Review**

1. 650 Main
  - a. Planning Bd Tuesday, Jan 20 – will request special permit. [*update: hearing postponed to February 17 and then March 3*]

**C. DCR – Bridges**

1. DCR meeting
  - a. At time of Jan 14 Bike Committee meeting, Steve Miller and Clay Martin attending meeting with DCR on high priority bridge projects (ped and bike facilities)
  - b. More detailed bridge by bridge meetings to follow
  - c. Communications with DCR always helpful
2. *Globe* article Sunday, Jan 11
  - a. DCR reported to be making upgrades in bike path between River and Western on the Boston side and along Memorial Drive near the Eliot Bridge, to start in spring and last several months
  - b. DCR bike/ped committee to be reconvened soon
3. Discussion followed on difficulties, importance of DCR plowing bike paths

**III. Projects and Planning**

**A. Networking on the Web – how it might work / B. Other Networking**

1. Tutorial on setting up a Facebook group (Aaron)
  - a. Administrator creates a group, with various parameters such as links to networks
  - b. Options for levels of input from members:
    - i. Members can leave comments “The Wall” – which alternatively can be deactivated
    - ii. Other discussion groups also possible
  - c. Access levels:
    - i. Open (to all who wish to join)
    - ii. Closed – members may join by permission of administrator
    - iii. Secret – non-members cannot search for group
  - d. Termination of group may occur only if all members remove themselves from group
  - e. Functions:

- i. Announcements
    - ii. Events – can set up date, time, etc and send out invitations to members’ Facebook inboxes or their Facebook homepages
    - iii. Members can set pages such that messages get forwarded as emails
  - f. Privacy – members do not automatically become “friends” of other members
- 2. Discussion followed
  - a. Access to broad new range of people we are not reaching now
  - b. Push content out rather than depending on people going to a website
  - c. Word of mouth and Facebook recommendation of similar sites could attract new members
  - d. How group is characterized (“recreation”) could affect who picks up on group, though Facebook users can also use search terms to find groups
- 3. Branded “pages” may be an alternative to setting up a group
  - a. Participants are “fans” not “members”
  - b. More control for administrator
    - i. More control over the look and graphics of the site
    - ii. Administrator can close page without consent of members
  - c. Categories are more business as opposed to recreationally oriented
- 4. Further discussion
  - a. Could link to substantially similar website
  - b. Likely uses would include promoting attendance at events and community input meetings
  - c. Possible to send one email to email ride list, but inappropriate to send numerous non-ride emails to that list
  - d. Multiple levels of communication
    - i. Committee email list (currently exists)
    - ii. Expanded Committee list (includes former members; currently exists)
    - iii. Ride list (currently exists)
    - iv. List to parallel announcements on Facebook (proposed)
  - e. Some administrative burden – although email list largely self-managing as people add and remove themselves via a website
  - f. Main goal is one-way communication, in part to reduce cost of monitoring (various)
- 5. Decisions – agreed to by all:
  - a. Start page as one-way communication channel
  - b. Have site be unofficial, maintained by committee members, not the Committee itself
  - c. Set up as brand page, not group
  - d. Jenni and Aaron volunteered to set up page

**C. Minuteman- Charles River Destination Signing Pilot Project. Feedback/thoughts from those who have a chance to ride the route and check out the signs**

1. Signage has gone up – due to efforts of Chris Porter, Wayne Amaral and others
2. Feedback (discussion about look and design of signs)
3. Thanks to Chris and Wayne for their efforts!

**II.B. Police Report / Bicycle Crashes (out of order)**

Police station moved from Central Square to 125 Sixth St

1. Crashes

- a. Sgt. Murphy described the recent bike crashes and noted that turning vehicles and bikes without lights were issues
2. Pedestrian fatality at Oxford x Wendell, in crosswalk
  - a. Crosswalks do not guarantee safety
3. Statistically not true that pedestrians take more chances in crosswalks
4. Other safety issues
  - i. Speed of traffic – on-going efforts to reduce default speed limit to 25 mph
  - ii. Better to have it statewide in urban districts – rather than subjecting drivers to confusion of local options
  - iii. Almost came to a vote in the last legislative session, but now have to restart options
- b. Bicyclist Bill of Rights now on Governor’s desk [*note: signed into law on January 15 as C. 525 of the Acts of 2008*]
- c. Banning cell phone usage by drivers –
  - i. Hands-free devices are not actually safer

#### **IV. Other and Next Meeting**

1. Thanks, Gerry, for posting Bowtie Ride photos on [www.cambridgebikes.org](http://www.cambridgebikes.org)

Next meeting: February 11, 5:30-7:30pm at the City Hall Annex at Broadway and Inman.