

**Cambridge Bicycle Committee**  
**April 15, 2009**

**Present:** Ellen Aronson, Viola Augustin, John Burckardt, Joan Friebely, Ken Field (chair), Manju Gokhale, Catharine Hornby, Tom Meek, Steve Miller, Sgt. Kathy Murphy (CPD), George Perkins, Andrew Prescott, C.R. Rogers, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Adam Serafin (MIT), Peter Stokes, Gerry Swislow, Scott Walker, Yuhgo Yamaguchi, Chris Zegras. Guest: Monica Hexner

**I. Minutes, Agenda Review**

1. Visitors introduced themselves
2. Request for officer nominees

**II. Committee Projects and Planning**

**A. Go Green Month and CitySmart**

1. Kudos and thanks for enthusiasm on leadership by Committee members (Cara)
2. Updates
  - a. Committee Ride (May 16; Gerry) – see also below
    - i. Coordinating flyers logistics with Steve.
    - ii. Publicity to be in CitySmart materials, with riders guided from Dana Park to start at the high school.
  - b. Family Day (June 6, 10-12:30; Steve). Outline distributed.
    - i. Linked into CitySmart event at Dana Park
    - ii. Events organized by rough age groups: 1. Small kids parade; 2. Mini-bike skills rodeo for mid-sized kids; 3. On-road family bike tour
    - iii. Need more volunteers, esp in first hour or so (10 – 11:30 ish)
    - iv. Getting help from police, city (cones, helmets), stores? (free food?)
    - v. PR – via email, maybe leaflets. Perhaps Facebook? (Manju) Focus should be on Cambridgeport (Cara)
    - vi. Child care – Will babysitting for youngest kids be available during family ride? (Ken) Any volunteers? (Steve) Activities will engage kids so long as parents are in the general area (Cara)
    - vii. Rules of the Road – important that ride reinforce stop signs etc (Ken, others)
  - c. Ride to Minuteman (June 6, 10 – 12?); Cara on behalf of Chris.
    - i. 1 additional volunteer needed.
  - d. Shopping (June 14, 11am; Scott).
    - i. Meet in Dana Park. Ride to a grocery store and demonstrate feasibility of shopping by bike.
    - ii. May need more of a publicity plan, but basically fairly simple.
    - iii. Plan to hand out coupons to Cambridge bike stores.
  - e. Senior/leisure ride on Memorial Drive (July 12, 1pm; C.R.).
    - i. Manju and Ellen volunteered to help.
    - ii. Meet at former Mahoney's (River x Memorial Drive).
    - iii. Mechanic to check bikes – Tom may be able to help find one.
  - f. Art Tour/Movie Night (July 27 evening; Tom).

- i. Combine tour of public art with bike themed movie (Peewee's Big Adventure?) at Riverside Press Park. Working with Brattle Theatre and Arts Council on procuring film.
  - ii. Will distribute lights. Would like to get refreshments.
  - iii. Participation encouraged.
  - iv. No rain date.
- g. Bike at Night (August 19; Catharine and others).
  - i. Plan to meet in Dana Park and bike to Harvard Square.
  - ii. Limited number in light of insurance, safety considerations.
  - iii. Route and some details to be finalized.
  - iv. Ken volunteered to help (in addition to Scott, George, Ellen)
- h. Bike Fashion Show (Sept 26 or Oct 3?; Joan).
  - i. Idea is to set up stationary bikes, with fan to simulate wind and prizes. ~45 minute show
  - ii. Location TBD – maybe at MIT, or new Central Square theater
  - iii. Anticipate 30-40 models, including models in training (local fashion students)
  - iv. Size of event – could be very big (Steve). We need to be clear on how much time we are willing and able to invest in planning of event (Viola)
  - v. Additional tie-ins with Cambridge Rindge and Latin (Manju) and/or Fashion Week organizers (Ken)
    - 1. Getting help from Lasell College fashion faculty and students.
    - 2. Talked to MassArt – they couldn't help

## **B. Bicycle Network Planning (Steve and others)**

- 1. Recap of project – identification of major corridors (see also prior meeting minutes)
- 2. Proposed corridors were posted at [cambridgebikes.org/networks](http://cambridgebikes.org/networks) – more than 90 viewings. More comments welcome
- 3. Next steps
  - a. Identifying gaps (facility improvements which would make corridors better)
  - b. Coordinate with DPW to feed into rolling five construction plans
- 4. Goals (in response to question from Peter)
  - a. Upgrading priority level of infrastructure improvements on these routes – seize opportunities to piggyback on other construction projects
  - b. Maybe future signed networks or established routes
    - i. Might be incorporated into city bike facilities map

## **C. Other**

- 1. May 16 Committee Ride: Literary Cambridge By Bike (Gerry)
  - a. Route planning in final stages
    - i. Start at Cambridge Rindge and Latin, end at Riverside Press Park
    - ii. 10 miles, 5 stops
  - b. Gerry's neighbor helping with developing text
  - c. Further info online at <http://www.cambridgebikes.org>
  - d. Meeting scheduled for Wednesday before the ride
  - e. Volunteers
    - i. Meeting point – Viola, John

- ii. Ride leader – John, Gerry
- iii. Pointers – TBD
- iv. Sweeps – Manju, George
- v. Mechanic coordinator – Andrew
- vi. Photographer – TBD
- vii. Poem coordinator – Tom
- f. Whole Foods giving food and bags
- g. Publicity – email list, and through CitySmart info distributed to Cambridgeport residents

### **III. Reports, Updates**

#### **A. Development Projects: Alexandria / Binney Street upcoming**

1. Sub-committee meeting to be announced

#### **B. City Street projects: DPW Update**

1. Report distributed on status of DPW projects
2. DCR Bridges – BU Bridge and Craigie Bridge starting construction this year.
3. Longfellow Bridge – meeting April 30 (see email). Copy of MEPA Environmental Notification Form came to Committee. Comments welcome.

#### **D. Police Report (Kathy)**

1. Incidents March 1 – April 4
  - a. 2 doorings – no citations issued. Both on Mass Ave, both in the morning
  - b. Mass Ave x Cambridge by Harvard Science Center tunnel. Confused driver switched lanes hitting cyclist to the right. Driver cited.
  - c. 77 Mass Ave – car ran light, hit cyclist. Driver cited.
  - d. Bishop Allen. Cyclist going wrong direction hit pedestrian. Cyclist cited.
  - e. Mass Ave x Memorial Drive
2. Driver education (C.R.)
  - a. In Holland, in driving test, drivers taught to open door with opposite arm such that driver is forced to look back for traffic. Advocate in MA? C.R. to draft letter.
3. Bike officers
  - a. Shift in duties planned – more officers on bikes (reallocated from officers previously on foot)
  - b. Encourage officers to follow bike law
  - c. Budget constraints – no new recruit class, but no plans to cut numbers of bike officers

#### **E. Other**

1. MA bike money going unspent
  - a. Globe article – see [http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/articles/2009/04/14/80m\\_in\\_us\\_funds\\_for\\_bike\\_projects\\_unspent\\_in\\_mass/](http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/articles/2009/04/14/80m_in_us_funds_for_bike_projects_unspent_in_mass/)
  - b. Story is true but not new (Scott)
    - i. Federal enhancement projects (money associated with federal highway funding)
    - ii. MA has needlessly complicated funding procedure which depends on local willingness and ability to invest in planning stages in order to deliver “shovel ready” projects

- iii. Not a priority for the state
- iv. Contact your Congressmen (Rep Capuano, Senators Kerry and Kennedy) to urge a less hostile approach to distributing funds
  - v. DCR has its hands full with bridges – sequencing of projects has delayed bike funds
  - vi. MA federal highway department has a history of being against bike projects

#### **IV. Review of Accomplishments of Past Year and Discussion about Goals for Next Year - deferred**

#### **V. Announcements and Next Meeting**

Next meeting: May 13, 5:30-7:30pm at the City Hall Annex at Broadway and Inman.