

Cambridge Bicycle Committee
May 13, 2009

Present: John Burckardt, Joan Friebely, Ken Field (chair), Megan Krey, Catharine Hornby, Tom Meek, Steve Miller, George Perkins, C.R. Rogers, Cara Seiderman (city of Cambridge), Adam Serafin (MIT), Karen Sommerlad (Harvard), Peter Stokes, Gerry Swislow, Scott Walker, Walker Willett, Yuhgo Yamaguchi.

I. Minutes, Agenda Review

1. Visitors

II. Committee Projects and Planning

A. Go Green Month and CitySmart

1. Tours and Events

- a. Bike Tour (May 16) (Gerry)

- i. Flyer distributed for final comments
- ii. Ride leaders met on May 12 to coordinate details
- iii. Volunteers still needed – notably photographer, “pointers” to point out places of interest
- iv. Sponsors:
 1. Broadway Bicycle providing a mechanic
 2. Whole Foods donating food and coupons at start of ride
- v. Strategy for mechanical problems
 1. Mechanic will help with flats, very minor mechanical problems
 2. Mechanic and sweep will coordinate to get riders back to group
- vi. Pace – goal is to keep group reasonably together
- vii. Thanks to Gerry for all his work
- viii. Ideally committee members would be identified at the ride (T-shirt, eg) but no money in budget

- b. Bike Commuter Appreciation Day (May 15)

- i. Volunteers still needed
- ii. Items to distribute: ankle clips (Thanks Scott!) and Clif Bars
- iii. Three stations: Harvard, Central, Kendall
- iv. Coincides with convoy to Boston City Hall but not explicitly coordinated
- v. Swiss consulate also hosting Friday am event involving chocolate

2. CitySmart:

- a. Marketing

- i. Flyers have been posted around Cambridgeport
- ii. Newsletters in mail – those who respond can get packets of free stuff
 1. About 5 different types of packets (kids, biking, walking, etc)
 2. Giveaways include kids backs, stickers, reflective material, wallets, bike messenger bag (to be raffled off)

- b. Ride-specific giveaway items

- i. Coupons (Shop by bike)
- ii. Lights (Bike at night, Art/movie night)

- iii. Bells (Seniors)
 - iv. Clif Bars (Minuteman)
 - c. June 6 Family Day (Ken) – live band may play at Dana Park
- 3. Bike Buddies
 - a. Volunteers needed (see email from Cara, May 8)
 - b. Types of support for new/returning riders:
 - i. Organized rides
 - ii. Assigned bike buddies – to offer minor help (eg air in tires, seat adjustment)
 - iii. Helmet giveaways upon request and at key events like certain rides

B. Revised Bylaws and Upcoming Elections

1. Officer elections – proposed to be held in June – contact Cara or Ken if interested in any position
 - a. Positions – chair, vice-chair, secretary
 - b. Need new volunteers
 - c. Overview of responsibilities (see also bylaws, available from Cara)
 - i. Chair – Chairs committee meetings; helps Cara with meeting prep, agenda; some interaction with public when people want to contact the Committee about an issue or when someone needs to speak to the press or others on behalf of the Committee
 - ii. Vice-chair – Chairs committee in Chair’s absence; other support as needed
 - iii. Secretary – takes meeting minutes
 - d. Advantages – leadership role with some influence in committee; time commitment relatively minor
2. Bylaws
 - a. City has expressed interest in greater diversity in the city committee and some fresh blood
 - i. Issue not specific to Bike Committee, and not targeted to any particular members
 - b. Idea for bylaw amendment: Ten-year term limit, followed by one-year break before eligible for re-appointment
 - i. Change may come in combination with new membership status – associate (non-voting) members who could broaden participation in the committee
 - ii. More targeted recruitment efforts also needed
 - c. Discussion followed – points included the following
 - i. Year off may not really matter to members if current members are permitted to attend as non-members and participate in events
 - ii. Not clear that term limits would actually result in greater diversity of membership
 - iii. Recruitment effort targeting under-represented populations seems more direct
 - iv. Is the goal to be representative of the city population or of the bicycling population in the city?
 - v. Membership now seems influenced by who is politically engaged and who has time for volunteer activities – youngish, more professional, white, more male
 - vi. Can we be more proactive in reaching a broader population of potential members?
 - vii. Can we ask the City Council’s help to reach a broader population?
 - viii. Not the Committee’s obligation to solve the civic engagement puzzle – but if people want to help, great
 - ix. In recent years, city has turned away volunteers for membership in Committee due to need to maintain reasonable committee size – goal has been balance

(geographic, valuable perspectives like having run a bike tour or owning a small business)

- x. We currently have a good group of new members – but term limits are not unworkable
 - xi. Bylaws should also specify representative members (ie members who represent Harvard and MIT)
 - xii. Greater age diversity would be a good thing
- d. Topic to be revisited next month. It was stressed the issue is not individual members, but more the city-wide concern about make-up of committees reflecting the city's diversity

C. Cambridge Bikes Facebook Page

1. Unofficial Facebook group, Cambridge Bikes!, now up – Please join (Ken)
 - a. On a preliminary basis, no restrictions on posting
 - b. Intent is mainly to disseminate information
2. Events calendar would be useful (Tom volunteered)
3. Gerry will send one-time email to rides email list to give them the link to the Facebook page
4. Possible to see info on page without logging into Facebook (Scott)
5. Postings so far look good (Megan, Adam)

D. Other: New – Bicycle Survey

1. Walter arranged for volunteer to do bicycle survey
2. Meeting to follow in late May with volunteer, interested members, on survey design
 - a. Volunteers – Scott, Catharine, Joan, Yuhgo, CR
 - b. Goal – to more clearly define purpose of survey

III. Reports, Updates

A. Development Projects

1. Alexandria (Binney Street) – nothing new to report

B. City Street projects

1. Brookline Street – construction started
2. Western Ave – about to set up advisory committee and workshops; details TBA

C. DCR projects: Longfellow Bridge

2. Several Committee members wrote comments – thanks!
3. Mass Highway managing project
 - a. Plan to have only a single travel lane (14ft; from Cambridge to Boston), and one sidewalk during construction
 - b. Second scenario would be to maintain two travel lanes – but at the cost of much more jockeying of construction zones
4. Bike-friendly goals:
 - a. Expand ends of project to improve transitions onto/off of bridge
 - b. Add cycle track
5. Coordination of multiple bridge projects remains a challenge
 - a. All major bridges from Longfellow to Eliot to be redone over next 10-20 years
 - b. Sequencing planned – but there might be overlap periods when multiple bridges are out

- c. Might be issues for emergency vehicles with 14ft lane

D. Police Report

1. No update on crashes this month (Kathy unavailable)
2. Crash analysis
 - a. Intern Laura has been working on crash analysis with Jeff Parenti – may present data to committee soon
 - b. Preliminary results –
 - i. Majority of crashes occur at intersection due to failure to yield – typically motor vehicles fail to yield to bikes when bikes have right of way
 - ii. Still too many doorings
 - c. Want to present results to Cambridge Police so they can see the patterns and to encourage them to enforce traffic laws to protect bicyclists
3. Reporting of crashes (Ken).
 - a. Member of public contacted Ken about a failure to yield crash at Mass Ave and Pearl. Bicyclist taken to hospital. Police had no record
 - b. Not clear whether this is an anomaly or indicates a problem with reporting
4. Citations have gone up slightly in recent years

E. DPW 5-year streets and sidewalk plan (Steve, Gerry)

1. Some members of the Networks sub-committee to meet with DPW on Monday
2. Re Networks – comments still welcome – see www.cambridgebikes.org/Network

IV. Review of Accomplishments of Past Year and Discussion about Goals for Next Year

1. Accomplishments '08-09
 - a. Planning/supporting infrastructure for cycling
 - i. Infrastructure review
 1. Development projects
 2. Street projects – esp Brookline St
 3. Input improved projects
 - a. Esp Mass Highway Dept Path Project (Belmont-Cambridge-Somerville Minuteman extension)
 - ii. Bike network efforts – identifying key routes for city cyclists
 - iii. Wayfinding signs, maps
 - iv. Past efforts came to fruition
 1. Mirant / Broad Canal access – now completed, or nearly
 2. North Point Park complete – connections still needed
 - v. Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC) recommendations
 - b. Planning and leading events to encourage bicycling
 - i. Committee-led bike rides
 - ii. Events – staffing, tabling, etc
 - iii. Planning for CitySmart
 - iv. GoGreen planning and leadership
 - c. Public advocacy
 - i. Letters – esp to encourage MHD Path Project (Belmont-Cambridge-Somerville Minuteman extension)

- ii. Input on BU and Craigie Bridges
 - iii. Testimony at City Council hearings
 - iv. Testimony at Planning Board hearings
 - d. Public relations, media
 - i. Creation of Facebook page
- 2. Goals for coming year
 - a. Events encouraging cycling
 - i. CitySmart
 - 1. Successful rides, events
 - 2. More people riding
 - ii. Other volunteer events
 - iii. Tabling – encourage civic involvement
 - b. Education / lobbying city and state agencies
 - i. Police
 - 1. Continued education re bikes
 - 2. Increased understanding of need for enforcement
 - ii. Bridges
 - 1. Bike accommodations, connectivity
 - 2. New Charles River Basin
 - iii. Good communication with city departments
 - c. Mobilization of bike community
 - i. More lights on bikes
 - ii. Increased diversity of Bike Committee – more reflective of community
 - d. Infrastructure and planning
 - i. Increase in bike parking
 - ii. Integrate bike network plan
 - iii. DMV drivers’ test – open door with right arm in order to look back
 - iv. Bike lane markings to encourage bicyclists to ride away from car doors
 - v. Art bike racks
 - e. Fun!
 - i. Summer BBQ

V. Announcements and Next Meeting

Next meeting: June 10, 5:30-7:30pm at the City Hall Annex at Broadway and Inman.