

CAMBRIDGE BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12 August 2009

344 Broadway, 4th floor conference room. Cambridge, MA 02139

5:30-7:30pm

Present: Ken Field (note-taker), Gerry Swislow, Joan Friebely, Adam Serafin, Brian McLane, Chris Porter, Rosalie Anders, Catharine Hornby (Chair), Steve Miller, Megan Krey, John Burckardt, Tom Goff (CDD intern)

I. Minutes, Agenda Review

II. Committee Projects and Planning

A. CitySmart Tours & Events (<http://www.cambridgema.gov/citysmart>)

Catharine is organizing the Bike by Night event on Wed 8/19, with the help of Megan & George. The ride will emphasize ways to bicycle safely at night, and will run from Dana Park to Harvard Square, ending at the Harvard Square Cinema.

Previous CitySmart events have been under-attended, with the exception of the Film Night at Riverside Press Park. Steve wondered what we can learn for the future, and whether "events" are really the way to encourage people to shift to bicycling & walking. He recalled that part of the theme is that you don't have to bike or walk every day to get the process started, and that hand-holding might be needed. Rosalie suggested that we need to do a better job getting the word out, and that restricting this inaugural CitySmart effort to one neighborhood (Cambridgeport) limited the pool of possible attendees. Ken pointed out that our City-wide bike tours are very successful, so maybe other "events" can work. Catharine pointed out that recreational events were more successful, and that functional events were not as attractive.

B. Bike Network Planning: report from Aug 3 meeting

CDD intern Tom Goff distributed a document detailing options for biking from the BU bridge to Inman Square, based on discussions at the Aug 3 Bike Network planning meeting. Steve pointed out that signage was critical. He also suggested consideration of a policy that would permit bicyclists to treat red lights like stop signs.

There was a suggestion to extend the scope of the planning from Inman Square to Union Square (Somerville).

Next steps are to refine and select routes, keeping in mind that these are aimed at risk-averse riders.

C. October 4 Bike Ride planning

Gerry reported that the October 4th ride, scheduled to begin at 10:30am, will be co-sponsored by the Cambridge Historical Society. The theme will be "Pedaling the People's Republic: A History of Political Activism in Cambridge".

Ken will see if the Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band is available to perform at Lechmere Canal Park at 12:30pm at the end of the ride.

D. Other

Gerry reported an incident in which a tourist trolley cut off Gerry on his bike while driving on Main Street. The trolley driver was trying to pull over to his curb stop, and ignored or missed the presence of the bicyclist. Ken suggested that such incidents be called into the trolley company.

Steve announced the availability of a fact sheet on bicycling and health, which was later distributed electronically to the Committee.

III. Reports, Updates, Meetings

A. Development Projects

With respect to the old Rounder Records building off Cameron Avenue, several issues were raised including that of adequate bicycle parking.

Rosalie will write a letter from the Committee asking that zoning laws be obeyed, asking for clarification as to the accessibility of the bike parking areas, asking about visitor bike parking, and asking for clarification as the exact nature of the bike parking facilities.

A second development project, the Homeowners Rehab project at Putnam & Sidney, was discussed, including the inclusion of a request for reduced car parking.

IV. Announcements and Next Committee Meeting

The next Bicycle Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 September 2009 from 5:30-7:30pm in the 4th floor conference room of 344 Broadway, Cambridge, MA.