Minutes of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting, October 13, 2010

Present: Randy Stern, George Perkins, Cara Seiderman, Catherine Hornby, Henry Lewis, Ellen Aronson, Walter Willett, Richard Holton, Viola Augustin, Chris Porter, Jennifer Wright (Conservation) Joanne Nichols, Michael Ginieres, Sam Lipson (all Cambridge Public Health) Peter Stokes, Steve Miller, Megan Krey

The minutes of the of the September meeting were approved.

Cambridge Public Health Department Air Quality Project

Sam Lipson presented details of a pilot project monitoring air quality in Cambridge. Most air quality is measured over a large area, but this project attempts to discover differences in pollution levels (esp. of ultrafine particulates) at a much more local level. The group is considering mounting monitoring apparatus on bicycles, an idea that was successfully tried in Copenhagen. The committee expressed its support for the idea. Sam will contact the committee if volunteers are needed.

Fresh Pond pathway

Jennifer Wright presented more details of the process intended to establish clearer regulation of uses of Fresh Pond Reservation. A preliminary meeting was held on September 14th, and a second is to be held on October 19th. She encouraged members of the committee and other cyclists to attend. At present there are no official rules governing use of the pathway. Chris raised the issue of crosswalks into the area not being plowed in snow; Jennifer agreed to look into it.

Western Avenue

Megan presented the proposed plans for Western Avenue, which include provision for a one-way raised cycle track [this is the option the committee had previously endorsed]. DPW has agreed to plow it in winter, though this will not be their first priority during a storm. There will be a public meeting to discuss the plans on Nov 3rd. Design details, including the positioning of bus stops, were briefly discussed. Walter asked whether the path might be made two-way; this seems unlikely in the near future given complications providing access for the contra-flow direction.

Construction update

An update on current construction work was distributed.

Bridge construction Cara summarized the current plans for the bridges: Craigie: final plan still needs to be finalized; BU Bridge: 3 travel lanes with bike lane; Anderson Memorial bridge: 3 travel lanes with bike lane; Longfellow: on-road bike lanes with buffer; improved connections to riverside bike paths. [update: additional options will be included moving forward]

Fall Bicycle Ride

Henry reported on the success of the Fall bicycle ride, which attracted 160 people. Henry was thanked for organizing, as were the sponsors (including Zing's Pizza, Galleria and Wholefoods), other bike committee members who participated, and the Cambridge police.

Musical Public Service Announcement

George presented the musical PSA on bicycle safety that he has created, which was approved and welcomed by the committee. The plan is to broadcast it on local radio stations. It will also be added to the bike committee's website.