

Draft Minutes of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting January 2012

Present: Cara Seiderman, John Goodman, Adam Serafin, Randy Stern, Jim Wilcox, Andrea Williams, Catherine Hornby, Sam Lipson, Devin Quinn, Taylor Walker, Carole Sousa, Ellen Aronson, Bill Connolly, Thom Meek, Madeleine deBlois, Jim Wilcox (DPW)

November Minutes were approved - no minutes were taken at the December Potluck

Listserv / Email discussion rules were reviewed

The Bicycle Committee meetings are a public venue. Email can be used for non substantive conversations such as dates of upcoming meetings, logistics or potential topics for discussion at future meetings. Substantive conversations are not allowed over email as per the Massachusetts State Ethics Laws.

DPW update

DPW will have an in depth presentation of their 5 year plan at the February meeting. The Concord Ave cycle track is substantially complete. Potential pavement markings for Broadway will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. The city Snow Management pamphlet was handed out. The city has released a smartphone app for reporting pothole and other maintenance issues available for download at the city website.

Lakeview Ave Sewer Separation Project /Huron Ave A&B

Several ideas were presented to the committee for feedback from the last community meeting regarding Lakeview Ave from Vassal to Huron Ave. Potential improvements include: more tree plantings along the curb, rain gardens, porous paving, addition of a bike lane or bicycle markings on the street, and/ or a traffic calming strategy. Several of these improvements would narrow the roadway which is currently very wide. The committee pointed out the proximity of this stretch of road to adjacent bike lanes/paths connecting to Fresh Pond and the Tobin school. The committee also acknowledged the positive environmental impact of adding porous paving & plantings. The committee recommends providing a bicycle facility/lane of marking on this road.

Council on Aging Outreach

Cara, Catharine and Carole reported to the Committee about their meeting with the staff for the Council on Aging. The staff was excited at the opportunity for the seniors to share their safety concerns with members of the bicycle committee. The committee is looking forward to working with senior groups to promote safer sidewalks and streets.

At the same time the committee expressed concern about becoming a target for complaints about dangerous bicycle practices without being able to provide a productive solution. The proposed strategy is to publish a questionnaire with one of the regular senior newsletters and pending the results meet with seniors in a small discussion groups.

Bicycle Fatality

The crash at the corner of Mass Ave and Vassar Street was discussed. The details surrounding fatality are still under investigation. Further discussion will happen after the investigation is complete. The safety concerns regarding this intersection are going to

be the subject of further review by the city.

Spring Ride

The initial planning for the spring ride has begun. The theme for this year is Science. The committee is looking to collaborate with the MIT museum and possibly other groups / institutions. Informal subcommittee meetings take place on the Wednesday following the meeting at the Plough and Stars. The ride is scheduled for May 19th.

An updated Cambridge Bike Facility map was distributed and is available on the city website.

University Reports will be issued soon, 2/7, Cara will email a link to the committee. Artful bike racks to be installed in Kendall Square are on display for public comment at the City Hall Annex.

Next Meeting Wednesday February 8th