

Minutes of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting November 2013

Present: Cara Seiderman, John Goodman, Andrea Williams, Taylor Fickett, Michael Proscia, Katherine Howitt, Jonathan Adams, Peter Stokes, Ingrid Schorr, Randy Stern, Brenda Pike, Ari Ofsevit, Tom Meek, Catharine Hornby, Megan Ramey, Matt Schrupf

Visitors: Dibba Lerret, Leslie Bliss

Agenda Review, Approval of Minutes, Other Logistics

October Minutes approved

Introductions and review of the meeting ground rules

Committee Projects / Subcommittee Reports

The infrastructure committee is still figuring out a way to compile their street survey data and the information collected at Parking Day. They will have a joint meeting with the wayfinding subcommittee Wednesday 20th at 6pm at Matt's house.

Megan will email the City (*follow-up: Randy did email*) on the wayfinding subcommittee's behalf regarding the signage for the route from the BU Bridge to Inman which has not yet been installed. The planned route from Harvard to Porter needs to be reviewed by city staff. Previous routes have been circulated for public comment.

Those interested in starting the social outreach committee (Brenda, Ingrid and Tom) will set up a meeting to discuss the subcommittee's goals and projects. City staff person Jennifer Lawrence will be involved with this subcommittee.

The City is looking for a staff person to head up the effort on the work with the Safe Routes to School. In the meantime the City will continue to think of ways to promote bicycling with kids. One of the upcoming bicycle classes the city would like to run will be focused kids/families. One a separate note, if any of the committee members have an idea for a class topic they should let Cara know.

DPW update

Jim Wilcox was not at the meeting to give an update this week but Cara did ask for the committee's feedback on recently completed road projects around the city.

One project in particular was the repaving and restriping of Broadway. The restriping which replaced the edge line with a parking line closer to the curb allowing more room for bicycles. New "sharrows" create more driver awareness of cars. Overall the committee was pleased with the result (more room & smoother pavement) but some wondered if more could be done to get have a full bike lane. There is not room in the current street width to do this without removing the parking.

Another part of the discussion was the intersection at Prospect which creates a left hand turn pocket for cars and creates a bike lane all the way to the right. Some people liked this design as it gave them a place to stop at the light, others felt like it pushed them into the path of cars trying to take a right hand turn.

Another question came up about the intersection of Broadway and Ames and if it were possible to have a signal that allowed cyclists to go after yielding to any pedestrians. There were mixed opinions on this amongst the committee. There are plans for a protected a protected bike lane (at the street level buffered by parked cars) for Ames Street.

The Western Ave cycle track is partially complete.

The pylons that protect the bike lane on the Longfellow are no longer in place. It could be for snow removal or for emergency vehicles but the committee felt like it was unsafe because motorcycles and mopeds are tempted to ride in the buffer zone and could have a head on collision with a bicycle. If committee members want to share a close call they had on the bridge they can write to the Globe reporter Martin Powers (martinpowers@globe.com).

The problem of what to do about double parking in general was also raised. The committee discussed inviting a traffic enforcement and or police officer to the meeting to discuss the danger this poses to bicycles and what we can do about it.

MassDOT Meeting

There is a public meeting on 12/3 (location TBD) to discuss MassDOT's "Connectivity Study" which is about the paths along the river and river crossings. The study will soon be made available online.

[update: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-boston/charles-river-basin.html>]

Hubway

The city is still considering having some year round stations. [update: *yes a year-round pilot is underway in Cambridge*]

There has been a neighborhood request for a new station in Cambridgeport (at Dana Park). There will be a community meeting about this on Tuesday 11/19 at 7pm at the Cambridgeport Baptist Church. There are some concerns from neighbors about loss of vehicle parking and other issues. Committee members are welcome to attend to support the added station. Anecdotally there seem to be plenty of vehicle parking available in that neighborhood. Counts will be done to verify.

Development Projects

There are two new development projects of interest, one at the old Cambridge Courthouse and another one at Cambridgepark Drive.

Cara asked for input on the new bike racks added on 6th St at Binney St as part of the new development project. They do not conform to the city standard.

Somerville Bike Committee

The committee discussed ways we could interface with the Somerville bike committee on shared interests or projects. John will try to set up another informal/ social meeting with them in January.

Spring Ride

John asked the committee for ideas for a theme for the Spring Ride. And the committee discussed how we are going to handle safety tips / training before the ride. One new idea is to have a quiz on safety that would get people and kids thinking about it before the ride starts and if they answer the questions right they get a prize or are entered in a drawing for a prize.

Upcoming Bike Committee Meetings and Announcements

Let Cara know if you have a topic for discussion for a meeting.

There will be a presentation on the most recent crash data analysis that the city did; most likely this will be in late winter. Also the Garden St project will be discussed again in more detail, this might be a separate meeting.

There are two public meetings for the city of Boston coming up one on the Cambridge Street overpass in Brighton: Tuesday, 11/19 at 6pm at the Jackson Mann Community Center. The other is a redesign of Causeway St: Thursday 11/21 at CBT Architects office 110 Canal St at 6pm.

Next Committee Meeting Wednesday December 11th at **6pm** Potluck with the Pedestrian Committee