

Cambridge Bicycle Committee, June 2015

DRAFT Minutes recorded by AO

JA: John Adams
SB: Steven Bercu
AMB: Ann Marie Biernacki
EC: Evadne Cokeh
AF: Amy Flax
JG: John Goodman
CJ: Caroline Jaffe
SL: Sam Lipson (CPH)
MN: Matt Nelson (CPD)
AO: Ari Ofsevit
MP: Mike Proscia
JP: Joseph Poirier
JR: Joseph Raser
RR: Ruthann Rudel
IS: Ingrid Schorr
CS: Cara Seiderman (CDD)
DS: David Soares (TP&T)
MS: Melissa Shakro
PS: Peter Stokes
MVK: Mechthild von Knobelsdorff
JW: Jim Wilcox (DPW)

I. Agenda review, Approval of Minutes, Introductions

Minutes approved (JG, MP)

II. Committee Officer Elections

JA, MP and AO reelected as President, VP and Secretary by a unanimous voice vote.

III. Committee Events

a. Bike ride debrief:

Card from Car Talk Plaza to John et al. What is the best way to get more people to participate in the memory book? Total riders = 222 (or so), which was a good size for CPD. How do we tell people where the sites are without causing everyone to bottle up—reveal the sites ahead of time, but not the route? Only some people care. Balloons?

AMB: Construction paper with numbers?

RS: A “If this house could talk” type of thing up for the day with an explanation of the ride, too.

DS: Having A-frames or something of the sort would be more difficult. But just posting something on a signpost is probably fine.

QR codes?

JA: Any improvements? CS: Several flat tires (4?). Tech people helped. Communications with bike tech people to keep in contact. Good to have several sweeps.

MN: Smooth from police viewpoint. 12 people total, really easy. There was a wooden-bike-with-no-pedals at Fresh Pond Day.

MP: Is there a fall equivalent to Fresh Pond Day? A: not that we know of.

b. PARK(ing) Day, Friday Sept 18.

CS: One Kendall is renovating the plaza. So we'd want to do it elsewhere. Does the committee want to do something? City supports bike tune-up person.

SL: How bikes can be used for data collection, w/ Copenhagen wheel?

CS: Could do something related to the bike counter to be installed later this month (June 22, or so). Maybe on Ames, and show other innovative and infrastructure information. Have a computer showing data, maybe.

AMB: Bring some other bike tech folks together (recent thing at South Station). IS: Make it interactive?

JA: Build a ramp on Ames Street to see how it would be if raised. Or use Western Ave to showcase the new cycletrack?

People interested: IS, CJ, JR, JG, MP, AMB; AMB will be pointperson for a subcommittee.

c. September 27: Bow Tie Ride

Afternoon: Generally morning is cooler in the fall, and a 1:00 ride people come right after lunch. What are library hours? Do we meet near one of the public bathrooms (Harvard Square)? Break at Fresh Pond (bathrooms)? Danehy? There is a Danehy event shortly before the ride date.

IV. Projects

a. DPW Updates (JW)

Pavement markings for Western Ave started to down this week. Working with Tegin Bennett as how to denote different markings for bus stops and ramps down as the ramps don't have final paving (end of July).

PS: Empty garbage cans left on the cycletrack (rubbish and recycling). Education/training needed.

Alewife and Huron A+B & Concord still ongoing. Paving on four streets for Huron A. Car washes and bicycle tune-ups for community relations; bike tune ups well attended (so many people they had to turn some away). Some more paving on Mass Ave in Porter and Harvard. Fulkerson sidewalk construction, water main on Kinnaird near MLK, and other streets. 7 days a week, 5 days of double shifts to try to finish school.

Kendall/Main Street: sidewalk work now for several weeks. Hopefully this fall, probably next spring. Won't be complete until Longfellow is complete. Harvard Square: full depth reconstruction on Mount Auburn: scope now temporary sidewalks until Harvard rebuilds the Smith Center (nee Holyoke Center).

Harvard rebuilding sidewalks, 130 bike racks. Cambridge Common: Flagstaff Park path to be open by end of June. Binney: final paving end of June first week of July.

Another round of maintenance paving upcoming. Stretches of Mass Ave near Porter, and some of Cambridge Street.

MP: possible to make the bike island jughandle cut-through two ways to go from Church to Mass Ave N.?

b. Watertown Greenway

SB: meeting well attended, almost everyone at the meeting seems to be happy with this project. Several design issues: Path width. DCR wants 10 feet wide, their point of view is that people will walk in the buffers. Width is there for >10 feet, this is something to push on. Ped cmte feels the same way. Points of access also important (Mount Auburn, Huron, ADA constraints). Also: lighting to make it usable after dark. Comments due June 26. Committee should make comments; people should also make their own comments as residents.

AF: do we have painted separation for pedestrians and cyclists?

JP: Importance of connection to Danehy and to Fresh Pond Mall area. And how to do the link to Alewife better.

CS: Section along New Street more complicated because it could be open to development. Nothing can be built on the railroad right of way itself, but a private developer could purchase it and move the development rights.

SB: Connection from Mount Auburn and Huron to Fresh Pond/Alewife.

MP: Street width. AMB: Start with 14'.

PS: What do designs for snow clearance require? AMB: DCR says 10' is a minimum. JW: 14' much better for snow clearance. MP: AASHTO recommends 14'.

AO: Worry that bike/walk separation will differ from other multi-use paths.

MP: A couple of people: too much paving near the water, want it to be narrow. Emphasize commuter/shopper/student use who want safe infrastructure.

V. Organization of Committee Work Plan for 2015/2016

Establish point people for each item as interested. (*Ruthann sent notes by email*)

Events: May theme ride, September Bow Tie ride, (JG) PARK(ing) Day (AMB)

Ongoing/standing: Development Project Review, City Project Review, Infrastructure/Technical Review: (SB/RS/JA): Specific topic: contraflow opportunities (SB)

Project Specific: Watertown-Cambridge Greenway (Ruthann R., AF), North Mass Ave Vision (coming soon, long term project; city has money to do planning: Porter-Arlington, just starting; AO (?)), etc.

Safe Routes to School and other youth activities. CRLS principal will require a bike safety course for all 9th graders. Ruthann; Megan Ramey nominated, also Caroline Jaffe, Maggie?

Outreach–New Ideas: Focus on “interested but concerned” groups, outreach to taxis/Uber, work with small business. (IS, AMB, RR)

Wayfinding: Cara hopes to put city resources towards this as well. Interest online system for individualized wayfinding. (JG, AO, RR)

Bike Parking

Hubway

RR by email: strategies for increasing support for bike lanes and other infrastructure, even at the expense of some street parking

VI: Other announcements

JP off to Berkeley for planning grad school.

July 8 potluck at Mike’s house.

August 12: Bike infrastructure tour