

Minutes of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting, September 15, 2010

Present: Randy Stern, George Perkins, Cara Seiderman, Catherine Hornby, Eric Batcho, Henry Lewis, Ellen Aronson, Jim Wilcox, Walter Willett, Tom Meek, Adam, Richard Holton

The minutes of the of the July meeting were approved.

Catherine thanked Richard for hosting the August supper.

Fresh Pond

The use of the path around Fresh Pond was discussed, in the light of the ongoing study by the Consensus Building Institute. It was agreed that whilst the path is not heavily used by cyclists, and whilst it is not suited to fast riding, it is enjoyed by a number of leisure cyclists, and it is especially appreciated by families with young children on bicycles. Cara undertook to circulate details of future consultation meetings to the committee. George and Ellen undertook to attend meetings if they could.

Kendall Square Improvement Scheme

Cara mentioned the proposal by MIT to improve Kendall Square. It was agreed that the committee should provide any input they could on ways in which this could accommodate cyclists. Facilities might include improved cycle links to the Longfellow Bridge (see below) and a docking station for a bike sharing scheme (see below).

Bicycle Sharing Scheme

Cara reported on plans by City of Boston through MAPC, the regional planning agency, to start a bicycle sharing scheme. The committee expressed enthusiasm for extending the scheme to Cambridge should this prove feasible. Various difficulties were discussed, including that of finding land for docking stations. It was suggested that MIT might provide some locations. Adam and Richard agreed to discuss the matter with MIT officials.

Fall Bicycle Ride

Henry reported on the Fall Bicycle Ride that will take place on Sunday October 3rd. It will follow a similar 15 mile 'bow-tie' route to that used in other years, but will start and finish at Cambridge Galleria. Galleria have agreed to provide sponsorship, as have Wholefoods.

Spring Bike Ride

George suggested that the spring ride could have 'Cambridge Music' as a theme. Cara mentioned that she had been approached by someone suggesting a 'Cambridge African-American History' theme. No decision was made.

Construction update

Jim gave an update on current construction work.

Longfellow Bridge

Cara presented different plans for bicycle accommodation on the renovated Longfellow Bridge. A discussion ensued on the merits of having an on-road bike path, or having a path alongside the sidewalk. The consensus was that a bike path separated from other traffic would have many advantages, especially for cyclists inexperienced with riding in traffic; and it was stressed that it would be important to discourage pedestrians from walking on such a path.