

Cambridge Bicycle Committee, April 2015

Minutes recorded by AO: Ari Ofsevit

JA: John Adams
AF: Amy Flax
CJ: Caroline Jaffe
JG: John Goodman
SM: Sean McDonnell
MVK: Mechthild von Knobelsdorff
MS: Melissa Shakro
EC: Evadne Cokeh
JR: Joseph Raser
AO: Ari Ofsevit
MP: Mike Proscia
CS: Cara Seiderman
JW: Jim Wilcox (DPW)
JP: Joseph Poirier
RR: Ruthann Rudel
MN: Matt Nelson (CPD)
PS: Peter Stokes
AMB: Ann Marie Biernacki

I. Agenda review, Approval of Minutes, Introductions

Minutes approved (JG, AMB)

II. May 16 bike ride planning

Lots of volunteers.
Getting chicken & salad from Redbones.

Try to keep people from going too slow or too fast. Can't accommodate scooters, inline skates, skateboards, etc. Keep ride together, have a sweep person able to stay with the back of the pack. Some sweeps might have to top and stay behind. Need sweep to keep people getting back to the route if necessary. Might have to see where you are and cut back to the route. Encourage slow folks and chatters to keep moving. Will have CPD officer with sweep, will help out in case of serious injury.

For the memory book, someone will be at tent who can answer questions and explain what the book is about. How they remember Tom, even if you never met him you may have a memory of him. Give it to Ray Magliozzi.

If you're at the tent during the ride, give away brochures and maps, but not stuff for riders (food, leg bands, bells, etc). One item per person.

Weather: will make a call on Friday. Will ride unless weather is very bad.

JW: DPW will have new rubbish truck, get in the drivers seat to see where blind spots are in a truck. 8 mirrors and a rear camera. More mirrors, side guards. Ride will avoid paving in Kendall Square.

Western Ave Cycletrack: will have arrows and markings when complete.

III. Project Updates

DPW:

- Alewife sewer separation. Huron A utility work is done, sidewalks and paving through the fall. Huron B (Huron, Concord, Fresh Pond), combination of work. Starting on New St (bike lanes) and Concord Lane.
- Western Ave: surface work and landscaping. Final paving some time in July, will need to shut the road down. Two very long days.
- Binney: Final paving mid-June. Surface improvements with more buildings coming online. 75-125 Binney will be the first “complete” once the buildings are in place.
- Chapter 90:
 - Mass Ave: Harvard to Porter. Sidewalk work ongoing, pave in July.
 - Fulkerson: Sidewalk work now.
 - MLK school: sidewalks on roadways nearby; school will open in September.
- Main St: roadway and utilities now. Paving this Saturday (the other half)
- Cambridge Common: focus in Common, signal work to have the shared use path open within next 2-3 weeks.
- Harvard Square: Full depth reconstruction, traffic calming, drainage. JFK to Holyoke.
- Waverley Path: Public art across path
- Main St-Broadway Grand Junction path (CRA). CRA will bid in the next couple of months, DPW will help with construction management. Mostly done this fall.

Harvard Ave and other places (short-notice work, money from winter) where transitions to milled pavement aren't marked should be ramped as long as it's more than a day or two. Always add orange paint [*update: PINK b/c orange has a different meaning for utility work*]. Report on iReport.

CPD (Matt Nelson):

Bike safety month, Bay State Bike Week. Each week, CPD at a different square, information and educational work with cars, pedestrians and cyclists. Bike lane flyers (700-800 given out). Traffic units have grants to do extra enforcement. Bike/ped safety grant. Lots of back-and-forth on social media. Three electric sign boards (Inman, Harvard, Mass & Vassar). Taking suggestions for what to say on them.

IV. Initial Discussion on Committee Work Plan for 2015/16

Some recent accomplishments to remember what has been achieved:

- Wayfinding
- Safe Routes to School
- Outreach
- Infrastructure: CS, groundwork from this committee for bicycle network plan
- Bike rides, LOTS of people participating, especially great to have someone to get food donations

What do we want to do in the future:

AO: Ideas on how to do more wayfinding, what is the best way to get the wayfinding information. Hubway? Online? App? Physical infrastructure vs information.

AMB: Bike parking. CS: feels like it's hard to keep up but it is a good problem to have. More bike corrals? Public support for them needed. Outreach to orgs and individuals.

Outreach to Uber drivers, taxicabs, parking permit decals at MIT, sometimes with residential parking permits.

Bike ride marketing: do we do more marketing? Do we have enough space? Do we have enough food? Are our demographics good for food sponsors? Do we want to get much larger? Different kind of activity/level if we get to closing down roads. Or do we do smaller rides more frequently?

CJ: Commuter bike trains, leading people who are new to biking.

AF: Bike rodeo, bike license, bike safety, etc. In Cambridge, more with the high school students and at the same time they're learning to drive. Do we give kids free/cheap bikes and tools? MN: Middle school bike/ped great to teach kids about how to find their ways. CS: Lots of high schoolers have specific route needs—especially CRLS-Danehy.

AMB: Partner with other rides? Collaborate with Cambridge/Somerville (logistics)? Bowtie/Tweed?

RR: Outreach to drivers: help to learn how to bike. Resources for cyclists. Help people through the first ride. CS: Have a grant thru CDD and Health Dept to do outreach for healthy aging, people who are older for active transportation (especially biking).

SM: Focus attention on “interested but concerned” group, they are 60% of the population. Focus marketing/outreach on them. MVK: Memorial Drive trainings on Sundays, rent out bikes to learn when there's not traffic. Kids bike rentals, does this exist? CS: Fresh Pond Day, lots of stuff for kids, bike rodeo, decoration. Couple of volunteers. MVK: 24-hour bike ride: college students decorate bikes. CS: Rides can be outreach.

AO: DCR/MassDOT outreach, meetings, etc.

RR: Citywide goals for infrastructure, mode shift, etc.

Comment: We have city policies for mode shift and complete streets, but often lost in the conversation. How to get people to “yes.” We’ve had 20 years of successful traffic calming, and yet there is now a council order opposing it.

CS: Broader participation: majority of people walk/bike/transit, but they aren’t necessarily as engaged.

AMB: Benefits to small business of cycling infrastructure. Get small businesses supporting outreach, bike benefits, etc. Data messaging.

MVK: Bike parking question. A: existing small businesses can request a bike rack. New construction or major renovations have bike parking required by zoning.

SM: Bike committee is active in supporting good, new development. More bike parking is better.

CS: Lots of good news. People are biking more. Need more bike parking at schools, etc. Get the message of success out. People are voting with their wheels. Bike counter in June, Kendall between Volpe and Marriott.

V. Announcements, Updates

Come up with work plan, decide on committees, not just talking/brainstorming.

June: Committee elections, chair, vice, secretary. Current officers interested in continuing to serve.

New city maps, watch for bikes pamphlets with decals. Sent out with water bills.

Summer potluck: Mike Proscia, **July 8** selected date (August 12 may also be something less formal, like a bike ride to look at projects; will discuss in June).

CS: WGBH event tomorrow night: outreach to younger population, mixing information with socializing. CS: 8-10 minutes about cycling in an interactive way. Fun tidbits. People are pretty much already with the program. Bike riding = growth.