

Draft Minutes of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting, August 10, 2011

Present: Cara Seiderman, Catharine Hornby, Richard Holton, Adam Serafin (MIT), Bill Connolly, Carole Sousa, Ellen Aronson, Taylor Walker, Andrea Williams, Randy Stern, David Quinn, Madeleine du Bois, Tom Meek, Tegin Teich (Guest)

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

A request was made for a volunteer to take on the organization of the October 2nd bow tie ride. No one was prepared to take in on single-handed, but a group of volunteers including Catharine and Ellen, agreed to press on with it. There will be a meeting at the Plough and Stars.

In the absence of a DPW representative there was a brief update on recent construction, and on the need to maintain enthusiasm for a bike path along the Green Line extension despite the postponement of that project. It was agreed to send a letter to Mass DOT agreeing with the proposal for a signal at Hawthorn in connection with the Anderson Bridge renovations.

The majority of the meeting was concerned with a discussion of the City Council Policy Order Resolutions O-13 and O-25 of August 1st 2011, which were circulated with the minutes. The resolutions, calling for greater education about, and enforcement of, traffic laws relevant to bicycles, come against the backdrop of the Hubway project, and a number of anti-bicycle articles in the Boston Globe and elsewhere.

There was lengthy and spirited discussion. Nothing approaching a complete consensus emerged, but the following points received general agreement:

- given that the majority of accidents involving cyclists result from the (most often, executing a right or left **turn across a cyclist's path**) **a stress on enforcing cyclists'** conformity with traffic regulations does seem to put the emphasis in the wrong place
- nevertheless the opening of the Hubway project does provide an opportunity to increase education of cyclists, motorists and pedestrians of the responsibilities. Information will be provided at Hubway facilities, on-site and on-line, including a mandatory safety video for those who sign up.
- something of a gulf of empathy does seem to have opened up between cyclists, motorists and pedestrians in recent years, perhaps as a result of the far greater number of cyclists on the roads. Cyclists in general, and members of the Bicycle Committee in particular, should be encouraged to do all they can to bridge this gulf: by talking at the relevant fora, meeting with elected representatives, engaging with the press, and so on.
- any policy to increase enforcement of laws pertaining to bicycles should include violations made by motorists, for instance, the blocking of cycle lanes by stationary motor vehicles.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14.