

Cambridge Bicycle Committee, November 18 2015

Minutes recorded by AO: Ari Ofsevit

[initials: not all in attendance – those *not* here are in *italics*]

JA: Jon Adams

AF: Amy Flax

CJ: Caroline Jaffe

JG: John Goodman

SM: Sean McDonnell

MVK: Mechthild von Knobelsdorff

MS: Melissa Shakro

JR: Joseph Raser

AO: Ari Ofsevit

MP: Mike Proscia

CS: Cara Seiderman (CDD)

JW: Jim Wilcox (DPW)

RR: Ruthann Rudel

MN: Matt Nelson (CPD)

PS: Peter Stokes

AW: Andrea Williams

IS: Ingrid Schorr

AMB: Ann Marie Biernacki

DS: Dave Soares (TP&T)

Guests: Allison Quach (intern, CDD); Lt. Rick Riley, CPD (Traffic)

I. Agenda review, Approval of Minutes, Introductions

Minutes approved (JG, RS)

II. Project Review

- a. First Street Assemblage (First and Charles). Committee sent a letter. RS: Is it possible to ask for clarification from Planning Board regarding the response of the proponent to the letter? CS: Does not have to do so. The only thing that is enforceable by zoning is the distance from the bike racks; others asked for. Proponent says bike parking is as far as car parking access. Ask for Hubway as mitigation for this; fit it in parking lot or on site. MP will write letter.
- b. MIT PUD, Planning Board hearing Jan 5. Not all responses have been received back. Waiting to hear on responses before writing letter; would be good to have a member attend the meeting. SM, CJ will attend.
- c. 399 Binney, redesign of 1 Kendall Sq. Cinema site; built around theater site. Preservation of ability to use the Grand Junction, even privately owned ROW. Preserve width wherever possible. JA: could we suggest they build out some of the Grand Junction along that part of the corridor.

d. DPW updates:

Paving wrapping up. Mass Ave & Western Ave striping tonight. Temporary overlay on Huron Ave for winter. Ch 90 mostly done, Sherman St last project. Public toilet in Harvard Square in progress (Peabody and Mass Ave). Most of Cambridge Common will be open and plowed this winter. Last pieces of sidewalk work on Grand Junction, but will be closed over the winter.

Design work for Bishop Allen/Columbia/Cherry St in Area IV/The Port. Potential for a shared street (like Winthrop St near Peet's or Palmer Street near the Harvard COOP), slow driving, large sidewalk; some are closed at times. Businesses on Winthrop St wanted it closed. No curb cuts, all one level, allows accessibility. Blanche St. at 300 Mass Ave being built in this manner. Also Longfellow Rd across from Mt Auburn Hospital.

e. Participatory budgeting:

36 projects have been selected, will be whittled to 24. Voting December 5-12. MP: Five bike-related projects. Parking-protected bike lane, not sure what the location would be, options being evaluated.

f. Watertown-Cambridge Greenway Public Meeting, Nov 30 6:30-8:00. Fresh Pond railroad track behind Aberdeen and under Mount Auburn Street. City owns part of it, DCR owns other parts. DCR proposing 12' paths (we would want 14'). Lighting issue, none proposed except under bridges. Funds available? Several committee members interested in going to the meeting.

III. Committee Work Plan

→ Would like everyone to volunteer for something.

a. **Working with/training/educating professional drivers.** AO/AMB co-leading this process. Lt. Riley: Taxi School for regulation of professional drivers, this can be incorporated in to the school. Uber/Lyft don't want to have any training. City can issue \$100 tickets that are moving violations for blocking a travel lane. AO: Local Motion had great response. Contact: Jeremy Warnick (PIO), Email Lt. Riley (see below), etc. Subcommittee with MBTA. AO and AMB talk about next steps (formal subcommittee, meeting, etc).

b. **RIDES**

Bow Tie Ride, debrief.

JG: two issues. At first stop at Galleria poor communication as to where to stop; right next to water; plan in advance of the ride. CS: do a screenshot or photograph or something for exact location. At Fresh Pond there was miscommunication about where to stop between police and ranger (grass vs parking lot). Leaving, people left more quickly than we would have liked; bike officers left to go ahead to protect route. Don't blindly follow bike officers.

Great snacks and lots of burritos: Chipotle and Felipes, and snacks. MN: Honest Tea rep leaving, need a new relationship. JA: have a radio for the sweep? MN: Fewer people with bikes w/o pedals. Fewer people overall. Stopped sending announcements to bulletin boards, etc. 200 seems to be a good size.

MN: Deputized bike committee members stopping traffic works, but would like to have enough officers and control if possible (and liability). Harder to get overtime on Patriots Sunday. Auxiliary Police helped as well, but if they are already there for another event they can help.

MP: get food delivery by bike trailer. On Saturdays we can store stuff at the library that is non-perishable.

Tasks: collect information for brochure and contact food people; RS would like help with this (AMB not here and was volunteered for this).

c. **Development review.** Catherine Hornby was often the point person for writing letters; could be a task to take on, or could be different people. MP will be point person for letters.
Also: How to comments on/influence Harvard Allston Project?

d. **Media relations.** For things like the Jeff Jacoby article, it's good to have a media rep response team, and maybe some stock letters in response to incidents. SM and RS interested, IS has been interested in the past. SM: Committee should toot our horn for the good things we are doing. "If you want to play ball here, you have to play at a different level." Can we add some of this to the website? We can talk further offline about what we'd want to say. Entering Cambridge, a bicycle-friendly community, etc. Need to name committee: *Outreach and Publicity*?

e. AW would like to work with Justin and **Safe Routes to School**. RR: Bike repair and build a bike for older students?

f. AW: **Climate change/sustainability.** Action?

g. **Google maps:** how to improve/making changes? MVK

V. Announcements

Committee congratulated Cambridge Police for catching the malicious pickup truck driver on Webster Street.

Upcoming citywide plan upcoming, will be significant. Committee meetings, subcommittees or something of the sort. Includes re-envisioning of all of Mass Ave. Bicycle network plan will be integrated as a given.

Lt. Riley. Enforcement with traffic unit. Trying to create a culture of checking the length of bicycle lanes, mindset for officers that the ownership of your area is to check bicycle lanes. Thru September, 532 tickets issued for blocking a bicycle lane (200 from police, remained from parking control officers). Fairly new violation: \$35 for blocking bike lane. Encouragement to do texting violations in June: 82 texting tickets. Get them to understand what we want focused on. Quality violations: in June, 4% of violations were to cyclists, red light and crosswalk. Look for harm reduction. Work in progress. MAPC / MassDOT grant for enforcement and education, Look Brochure geared towards all users.

riley@cambridgepolice.org, enforcement issues, bicycle lanes, email the best way to get ahold of Rick.