

Cambridge Bicycle Committee  
Wed. April 13, 2016 meeting minutes (Randy Stern)

Present: Mike Proscia, Melissa Shakro, Jon Adams, David Soares (TPT), Mechthild von Knobelsdorff, Ruthann Rudel, Randy Stern, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Matt Wilson (CPD), Allison Quach (CDD), Mark Boswell (visitor)

1. Minutes from previous meeting were approved
2. DPW – no update since Jim was absent
3. Development projects
  - a. Permit SP308, property adjacent to the Minuteman bike trail near Davis Square, was discussed. Its 34 housing units, plus 1 retail. It will have 35 covered bike parking spaces, plus 2 short term spaces. It was commented that the number of short term spaces seemed low, although it meets zoning requirements.
  - b. MIT Kendall Square project. Another hearing is planned at the next planning board meeting.
  - c. Western Avenue complete street will be assessed for usage over the next 6-8 months
4. April 23, MIT to have open house from 10-3. The Cambridge Connections tent will include Melissa Shakro our MIT bike committee rep, on bikes at MIT
5. Some discussion of talk by Jan Gehl at Harvard GSD the night before this meeting. He is an inspirational architect and advocate from Copenhagen for designing cities for people first, before cars. Cara mentioned that he inspired her to focus on urban transportation after hearing him speak at Berkeley.
  - a. Discussion on why Cambridge is not Copenhagen with respect to bike and ped infrastructure. Suggestions were that main reason is political will. Cambridge has policies that support prioritizing bike, ped, and public transportation, but too often local concerns about parking win out in political decision making. Several members suggested that political advocacy, outside of the committee, was needed to elect city councilors who fully believe in the policies.
6. Some discussion of recent adoption of Vision Zero by the city.
  - a. In Cambridge, with very few bike/ped fatalities, the vision could/should be tied to KSI (killed and serious injuries), not just deaths.
  - b. Vision Zero could also be connected to the Safe Routes to School initiative.
7. Parking Day. Megan is leading organizing this. Vision Zero could also be the driver for a bike committee Parking Day demonstration project – convert a significant chunk of roadway to a separated bike lane for a day – eliminating traffic and adding orange cones as a separator. Suggested location included (a) the entire stretch of Mass Ave from the river to Central Square, (b) Mass Ave directly in front of City Hall, (c) a contraflow lane on Brattle Street. It was thought that this could also be tied to the economic argument that separated bike lanes and eliminating parking has been shown to increase local retail

- activity, and that in fact, more people shop at local stores when they are safely accessible by bikes than by autos.
8. Craig Kelly's proposed City Ordinance prohibiting bikes from getting locked to trees. Generally in favor of this, but City should put in more bike parking where tree locking is a problem.
  9. May Bike Ride (John absent)
    - a. Map includes theater and filming locations
    - b. We received a \$500 Lets Move Cambridge mini grant, which will be used to fund food to be cooked by the high school staff for lunch at the ride, and perhaps to pay staff for Saturday work – related to culinary arts program at Rindge
    - c. Volunteers were found for sweep at ride (Randy and others) and table minoring (Ruthann)
  10. Aeronaut brewery, May 1, tabling planned. Need additional volunteers for table. Contact Ruthann if you can help out.
  11. June meeting – officer elections. Jon plans to step down as chair. Member should think about whether they want to serve
  12. July 13 will be pot luck. Randy volunteered his back yard for the pot luck.
  13. Some discussion of possible summer bike ride, reviewing new bike infrastructure