

Notes 2/9/22 Bike Committee Meeting

Attending: Randy Stern, Mark Boswell, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Evan Killion (CDD), Alison Harris, Anna Frebel, Guido Cuperus, Carola Voelker, Conor Henrie, Eitan Normand, Jim Wilcox (DPW), John Ellersick, Rahi Patel, Scott Kilcoyne, Silvia Del Carmen Castanos, Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Brennan Biemann, Diane Gray, Todd Robinson
Guests: Sarah Scott (CDD), Jeff Roberts (CDD)
Visitor: Lesli Gordon

Minutes from last meeting - approved

Zoning 101 - Zoning Primer - Sarah Scott, Associate Zoning Planner (CDD), Jeff Roberts, Director of Zoning and Development (CDD)

- Basics
 - Regulates land use
 - Balances public interest and private use
 - Sets rules
 - Advances cities planning goals
 - Regulates type of use, size and scale of buildings, density, building characteristics - not land ownership, business operations, construction type, building codes, licensing
 - [Zoning Ordinance](#) and [Zoning Map](#) - available on line
 - City divided into zoning districts, some more permissive than others
 - Overlay zoning districts - modify base zoning in an area for a particular use, some city wide some (e.g., AHO (Affordable Housing Overlay)) in specific areas
 - Planned Unit Development (PUD) - typically used for large properties with multiple units
 - City council must make zoning changes, e.g., PUDs or Overlays
 - Sets allowed uses - some as of right, some require special permits from [BZA](#) or [PB](#), some prohibited
 - Development controls - open space, set backs, yards, parking, height, floor area, density
- Bike Zoning
 - Bike Parking is the main bike related regulation (6.100 in zoning ordinance)
 - Bike Parking required if 4 or more units, 15% increase in residential units, 15% increase in Gross Floor Area, non-residential use conversion
 - Short-term (public, convenient) and Long-term (secure, enclosed, authorized use, nearby) spaces - short term can be just a contribution to public bike parking fund
 - Comments - would be nice to extend to smaller buildings, with at least some requirements
 - Minimum quantities for different types of building uses in the zoning based on having 10% of trips be by bicycle
 - Access requirements - aisle width, ramp angle, elevator size
 - Design standards - wide range of bike types, convenient, protection from theft
 - [Bike Parking Guide](#)
- Development Project Review
 - As-of-right - developer can just do it with a building permit - no planning review
 - Special permits allowed, normally granted if zoning requirements met - often larger buildings, [BZA](#) or [Planning Bd](#) needs to review

- Variance for things not allowed by zoning. Higher burden of proof. BZA approval required
- Also, [Zoning Advisory Committees](#) - Central Square and Harvard Square - staffed by CDD, review and comment on proposals requiring special permits
- Special permits sometimes allow additional development, have impacts, or require waiving standards
- [Article 19.20 Project Review Special Permit](#) - reviews transportation impacts and urban design, including pedestrian and bicycle friendly design
- Some as of right projects also require advisory reviews – e.g., housing built under AHO, and “areas of special planning concern”
- Transportation Impact Study - TIS required for projects above a certain size
- [Planning Bd Process](#)
 - Before a special permit is issued, Community engagement, at least 1 community meeting,
 - Informal consultation with city staff
 - Public hearing at Planning Bd
 - Planning Bd approves or denies, can attach conditions
- Committee Participation
 - No requirement to review development projects but it is an opportunity
 - Typically review larger projects
- Q&A
 - Jeff and Sarah roles. A - they staff the planning board, review and advise proponents
 - Review amendments to zoning ordinance
 - Cara generally identifies the projects brought to committees for review based on their size and impact, but bike committee members could help by doing more work to review planning board projects and decide which ones need review
 - Info available typically 2 weeks or more before a PB meeting
 - Is there “zoning” for streets - requirements for the street itself or developers building on a street? A - Depends on public right of way vs private right of way. Land is streets or lots. Zoning applies to lots. But some PUDs such as Northpoint or Volpe include streets. In that case, PB reviews street design to assure city standards are being met.

Bike Rides

- Winter Ride, March 5
 - Route mostly defined by Mark and Randy, police support lined up by Adi, also stop at bakery on Concord Ave
- [Spring Ride - May 21](#)
 - Guido lead a brainstorm - results follow
 - Theme - Where train meets bicycle or Rails to Trails
 - Potential stops - Green line extension, Cambridge Crossing, Fitchburg cutoff path
 - Possible talks - Grand Junction or Watertown Cambridge Greenway
 - Can take your bike on certain trains
 - Co evolution of bike and train usage in Cambridge
 - Need route and materials, title for committee to vote on at next meeting
 - Evan has permits ready, water arranged
 - Mark can make a route
 - Anna can do brochure design
 - Swag - will have water bottles, maybe pants clips
 - Evan will send out work sign up link

DPW - Jim W

- Please use [Commonwealth Connect](#) (App or via city web site) to report potholes, snow clearance problems
- Broadway at Galileo - new Bluebike station, already getting lots of use
- [Inman Sq](#) - drainage work continues
- Eversource
- Upcoming
 - [Port infrastructure](#)
 - [River St](#)
 - [Willard St](#)
 - [MassAve 4](#) research, talking with utility companies
 - Catenary wires will be turned off in mid March

TP&T - Stephen Meuse

- Porter Sq community meeting held, [info on web site](#), surveys still open

Work Plan

- Please sign up for projects

→ Advisory group on CSO implementation being formed; if interested, reach out to Cara directly

Q&A from committee:

Can the committee take a position in support of the policy order in front of the city council on reducing parking minimums. Reducing parking minimums would reduce future car traffic in the city which would improve safety for cyclists? A - we would need to have that on the formal agenda in advance for public input, we can put it on a future meeting agenda. Randy could provide a description or draft letter that the committee might send.

Comment: Shepherd Street could use a contraflow bike lane, or space on the sidewalk to support students going to the Radcliffe Quadrangle who are using that in a bi-directional way.