



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE May 2011 MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

Brian Postlewaite, Chairman
Charles Denison, Vice Chairman
Ken Carlson
Alex Epstein
Jim Gallagher, Secretary
Enid Kumin
Alan Moore
Ron Newman
Tim Talun

Ex-Officio:

Janice Delory, *Office of the Mayor*
Bob Trane, *Board of Alderman*
Commissioner Stanley Koty, *Department of Public Works*
Terry Smith, *Traffic & Parking*
Chief Pasquarello, *Police Department*
Kathleen Ziegenfuss, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development

(Bold italics = in attendance)

Day/Date: Tuesday May 17, 2011

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Location: City Hall, basement employee lounge

It was decided that Charlie would take the minutes this month (going alphabetically month by month).

Procedural Business: (20 min)

1. Guest introductions
Guests in attendance: Lauren Clayton (resident), Amanda Kersey (Somerville Patch)
2. Approve Minutes: April 2011
Minutes approved unanimously pending Kathleen's proposed changes
3. SBC Officer Elections
Charlie (Vice Chair) and Jim (Secretary) running unopposed. Both re-elected.

Brian and Alex running for Chair. Brian explained that he is running out of time to follow up on tasks assigned to members between meetings, but could continue as Chair in a limited fashion. Brian mentioned that Alex has created a meta-agenda for month to month, and Alan has suggested that we create a master task list to help us keep track of who is doing what. Alex explained that he was interested and willing to be Chair.

The committee then filled out secret ballots and elected Alex as our new Chair.

4. SBC Communications Policy (Kathleen)

Kathleen drafted written guidelines to help the clarify the current laws to the committee (a copy was handed out at the meeting). Of note is that she recommends a 1 week deadline for communication requesting mayor's approval and a 3 day deadline for communication requesting OSPCD/Transportation Dept's approval.

Enid asked if it was possible for the committee to send letters on their own behalf representing the sole opinion of the committee. Kathleen explained that the current policy requires the City liaison to the SBC to approve it.

Ken suggested creating a private Google calendar to keep track of letter deadlines.

5. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (Kathleen)

Alan no longer has time to be the SBC rep on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, and has asked for someone to take his place for the remaining 6 months. Tim volunteered to do so.

Education and Outreach: (30 min)

1. Bike/ped/safety campaign (Kathleen and Alex)

No update

2. Bike Week & Month (Ken)

Bike breakfast planned for May 18 7:30-9 am by Star Market on Beacon St. Patsi Pies and Star Market are donating food. Ken purchased a canopy from Target for the SBC to keep and use moving forward and asked individual members to donate to him to help defray the costs (\$80 total)

3. Annual Bicycle Accident & Incident Report (Kathleen)

No update

4. Bike Friendly Community Award and Feedback (Kathleen)

Somerville awarded Bronze! Have not yet received detailed feedback from LAB.

5. Bike Committee Summit at NEBE (Alex and Enid)

Alex reported that the summit went well, and was attended by bike committee members from Cambridge, Somerville, Milton, Watertown, Brookline, Bedford, and Chelmsford. Many similar issues between all the groups. Outcomes: Create a Google Docs repository including Somerville's ped/bike count methodology, zoning for bike parking, and other items. Attendees suggested we all meet again once a year (ideally in Fall). Kathleen had presented regarding the infrastructure improvement in Somerville.

Events: (30 min)

1. Historic Bike Ride (Ron)
Historic Bike Ride planned for Sunday May 22 at 1:30 pm. Will ride in the rain (no rain date). Theme is “unrecognized historic Somerville” or some variation. Enid has arranged for a police escort (4 officers).
2. SomerStreets (Kathleen)
5 have been announced. June to October, one per month. Ken suggested that the SBC table at each one, and also that each SBC member should help tabling once per year minimum. Brian also mentioned that we have a volunteer list of people who may be willing to help us table at these and other events.
3. Spring Bike and Ped counts (Kathleen)
Counts have been completed and a presentation with the results is in the works.

Infrastructure: (30 min)

1. On-Street Bike Parking & Bike Racks (Kathleen)
On-street bike parking requested by Diesel, Sherman Café, and Bloc 11. Sherman Café has a difficult location, however, since the spaces in front are a bus stop and loading zone. If not possible to do on-street rack, may simply add more inverted U racks on the sidewalk.
2. Bike parking at Market Basket (Alex)
Alex to revisit issue with SHPC in June. The problem of bikes parked to the cemetery fence is still an issue.
3. Bike Lane & Sharrow Update (Kathleen)
Highland Ave now has sharrows. School St to be striped later. Also recently added: bike lanes on Somerville Ave from Prospect Street to McGrath Hwy; bike lanes on Medford St from Somerville Ave to Ward St. Sharrows coming to Medford St from Ward St to Cambridge City Line.

Ken asked if there are any plans to restripe the bike lanes on Beacon St, noting that the center lines were just repainted. Charlie mentioned that if so this would be a good chance to connect the northwest-bound bike lane to the one approaching Somerville Ave (missing 50 feet or so across from Oxford St). Ken mentioned that there is a Boston.com article about the bad pavement on Beacon St as well.

Ron asked about the status of bike lanes in Union Square. Kathleen responded that they

will be part of the plan to redo the square, but there are no immediate plans for bike lanes in the meantime.

4. Beacon St Bike Lanes (Charlie)
See item 3 above.
5. SSG Development Bike Storage Room (Kathleen)
Assembly Square developer proposing bike storage room as part of new self-storage facility and is looking for feedback from SBC. Kathleen will bring info to next month's meeting.
6. Wayfinding Network (Brian)
No update. Brian should have more time to work on it in the next month or so.

New Business: (10 min)

1. Budget, funds & purchases (Brian)
Jim put together a rough budget a while ago. Brian reminded people to save their receipts so we can continue to track our purchases and propose a budget for the SBC to the City. Brian proposed an idea of having a fundraiser. Kathleen will keep investigating possible funding for the SBC through the City, and emphasized that if we have things that she can do through OSPCD (copying of flyers, etc) to be sure to let her know.
2. Agenda templates (Alex)
No update
3. Bike bells (Lauren)
Lauren suggested to the committee that we endorse buying bike bells when you buy a bike as a way to increase safety. He suggested that we create posters that retailers could use to encourage bike bells. Ken mentioned that we could encompass this into our tabling/poster campaign.
4. Parents raising kids with bikes (Amanda)
Amanda from the Somerville Patch mentioned that she is writing an article about parents raising their kids with bikes and was looking for parents who she could contact. A few names were brought up by committee members.