

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting of February 17, 2016.

Board members present were Scott Smith, Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Doug Greenfield and Phil Goff. Also present was Joey Glushko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

*Approval of the minutes from January meeting. The January minutes were approved as amended.

Reappointments. All the candidates up for reappointment, Christopher, Jack and Phil were approved by the Board of Selectmen (BoS). Jack reminded us that this month is the 20th anniversary of ABAC.

COBWEB officer introduction. There was no officer present so we skipped this item.

Citation Program. Joey is going to meet with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the implementation of this program which will cite people for good behavior on the streets of Arlington. A citation will be a card entitling the recipient to a free treat, such as an ice cream cone. It is not yet clear if this program will apply to just children or both children and adults. The duration of the program has also not been determined. The program will require support from some of the businesses in town to underwrite the expense.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) report. Scott reiterated that TAC has endorsed the Complete Streets Program. He added that the BoS is not planning to review the program until April.

Scott also told us that the Mass. Ave. Redevelopment Project is nearly complete. Signal detection equipment is being installed now. Scott has occasionally seen people driving down the bike lane and parking lane. At Bates road, right turning motorists will need to drive briefly in the bike lane to cross over to the right turn lane. That is legal. It is also ok to briefly use the bike lane to get around someone who is turning left. A concern is with the occasional illegal use of the bike and parking lane as a passing lane. Phil added that EALS is generally quite pleased with the results but noted that the bike lanes have not been painted at several intersections. He also suggested several other changes in the signage and striping to make the road safer. In addition, there is also a lack of bike racks on the Capitol block.

Arlington Center Redesign Project. Scott mentioned that construction will probably start in the spring. We don't yet know what the construction management plan will be. Scott thought that we should make sure that there is a plan in the works. We would like to see the plan ahead of time so we can review it. We again discussed the position of the bike lane on Mass. Ave. at the intersection with Mystic Street westbound. We would like the

bike lane to be to the left of the right turn lane but it is planned for the right side, near the curb. We realize that our recommendation would be easier for more experienced riders to negotiate while those with less experience might be a bit more uncomfortable, but it eliminates the possibility of drivers hitting bicyclists when making an (illegal) right turn.

Rails-to-Trails sign program. Joey told us that she submitted some graphics to the Rails to Trails Conservancy and they are designing the sign.

Bike Committee Leadership meeting. Jack told us that many cities and towns were represented from as far away as the North Shore. A Google Group has been established to facilitate communication between bike committees. Christopher told us that there was some discussion about the value of bicycle lanes. He added that the Central Mass. Rail Trail is progressing in that there is a chance that Weston might be amenable to the trail.

Jack told us that there was a lot of talk about bicyclist and motorist education. In that context, he also told us about Mass Bike's Lead Cyclists Education Program. He believes that that program is geared towards cyclists with, at least, intermediate skills. He felt that there is a need for instruction aimed at the novice bicyclist. Christopher suggested that it would be useful to invite the DCR to the next Leadership Committee meeting because they oversee some of the most important roads in our area.

ABAC Winter Social. The room has been reserved and refreshments ordered. We would like to order a cake to celebrate the ABAC anniversary. Christopher will look into doing that if possible.

Working Group for the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Town Application. There has been one meeting of the working group with another scheduled next week. At the meeting they did a first stab at filling out the application. The League is revamping the application web site so nothing can be entered for the next few weeks. The application must be finished and submitted by August.

Tri-Community Bike Committee meeting. Joey would like anyone who has a topic they wish to be discussed at the meeting, to contact Stephan, Joey or Scott, who will attend the meeting.

Bikeway Spring Cleanup. We decided to skip the Cleanup this year since it is already rather late to begin the planning. We would also like to evaluate the impact of the trash cans that were placed along the Bikeway last summer. In the spring, we will evaluate the condition of the Bikeway and determine whether we need to do a cleanup next fall or the following spring.

Bike Arlington Tour. We decided on May 15 as the date for the event. Phil suggested that we ride on the new bike lanes in East Arlington. Joey would like to visit the new

group enterprise building in Arlington Heights. Doug suggested we ride the full length of Mass. Ave. to point out the various bicycle accommodations that have been implemented. Jack suggested that we ride on the new Fitchburg Cutoff Bikeway connecting to the Minuteman Bikeway at Alewife.

We discussed various routes and Joey suggested a tour of the new firehouse in Arlington Center. She volunteered to contact the Fire Chief to see if that is possible. Jack reminded us that, last year, the owner of the Regent Theater suggested sponsoring the next ride. Jack will look into this possibility. Scott suggested a possible stop at the Gibbs school, given the current debate about restoring its use as a public school.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.
Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller