

Draft Minutes of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting, May 11, 2011

Present: George Perkins, Cara Seiderman, Catharine Hornby, Ellen Aronson, Richard Holton, Viola Augustin, Jim Wilcox, Adam Serafin (MIT), Peter Stokes, Randy Stern, Taylor Walker, Bill Connolly, Madeleine deBlois, Devin Mann, Sam Lipson, Carole Sousa, David Quinn, Jim Wilcox (DPW), John Goodman, Andrea Williams, Christopher Vaughan, Seth Zeren.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Jim Wilcox gave the DPW report. He was asked about the apparent reduction of bicycle parking spots at Harvard Sq as a result of the MBTA renovations; he will investigate

Catharine reported on a meeting of local bike committee leaders in Somerville which she attended. She commented on the advantages that accrue to Cambridge from having a government employee—Cara—coordinating bicycling activities, rather than relying entirely on volunteers.

Adam reported on the new Greater Boston Cycling and Walking Map released by MAPC.

Cara will send around details of various email lists to which people may subscribe for information about cycling events and resources. In response to requests, she also agreed to send round details of various organizations that collect data on the advantages of cycling—Livable Streets, MassBike etc.

A letter from the Disabilities Commission was circulated concerning the locking of bicycles to disabled parking signs: apparently they can impede access to cars. There was a discussion of the other restrictions on where bikes may be locked: many committee members were unaware that they could not be locked to parking meters, although in this case the regulation is not typically enforced unless the bike impedes access to the meter or substantially blocks the pedestrian path. There was discussion of how any new regulations could be communicated to cyclists: of whether a notice could be affixed to the parking signs, or whether this would contribute to over-proliferation of signs.

Tasks were allocated for the May 21st Bike Ride. There was discussion of whether a Cambridge Bike Committee banner could be made.

There was discussion of a smart phone app that is currently being trialed in San Francisco that tracks cyclists' routes and uploads them to a central database. Discussion focused on whether it might be deployed in Boston and Cambridge. There was a suggestion that if it were, the information received might be handled by a non-profit like MassBike or Livable Streets Alliance.

Cara listed and discussed the existing committees and projects for the benefit of new members. These include the Kendall Sq project (on which it was suggested that Viola might sit since Richard has a conflict with the time), the Mass Ave (Harvard - Porter Sq) project, the Mass Ave and Prospect Street Cycle Lane study, the bridge projects, Hubway, City Smart, GoGreen Month.

The date of the next committee meeting was confirmed for June 8th; and the summer Pot Luck was provisionally scheduled for July 13 in Seth Z's house