



Newton Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

Meeting minutes

Tuesday March 22th, 2011, 7:45 p.m.

Newton City Hall cafeteria

Attending: George Kirby, John Bliss, Jim Lerner, Lawrence Kaufman, David Krigman, Susan Rouzar, Miles Smith, Sean Roche, Maria LePorini.

1. January 25 meeting minutes were approved.
2. Jerome Graf docketed the time-limited Walnut St. parking motion.
3. The sidewalk snow clearing ordinance passed 18-6 at last night's Aldermen's meeting!!!
4. Final work on the Lower Falls bridge construction (approaches, staging removal) will be resuming around the end of the month, according to MassDOT (per Kay Khan). The approaches will have posts, railings, and a plaza on the Newton side. Pictures of the bridge have been posted this evening on the NBPTF website. An official ribbon-cutting will likely be at the end of May or early June. Newton DPW will need to perform a traffic study on Concord St. before deciding whether to paint a crosswalk at the end of the bridge and to create an ADA-compliant curb cut at the landing. George has asked Jim Denila, Newton Traffic Engineer, to schedule the traffic counting.
5. Newton North High School Teen Safety Summit Expo will be held April 9th, noon-4pm, as part of a one week biking safety program held there. David Krigman will be providing copies of his helmet-fitting brochure.
6. Needham St. rail-trail: Jim took pictures of the proposed trail and connections to the Charles River Pathway and Williams/Saco park path. Bob Rooney, Newton COO, wants us to present the proposed map and plan to the Ward 5 aldermen. We're holding a neighborhood meeting at the Emerson Community Center on Sunday April 10 from 2-4pm. Candace Havens and Bob Rooney favor our holding this public meeting. We will hold a walk at 10am on Sunday April 3rd along the proposed trail with the neighborhood council and the Ward 5 and 8 aldermen. We'll leaflet the abutters (including Avalon) to notify them about the April 10 meeting and walk.

Action Items:

1. George will write a letter to the TAC requesting the production of a set of policies before they issue a list of bike lane priorities.
2. George will write a letter to MassDOT requesting in support of the design exception request from the city to the state requesting better bike lanes.
3. George will ask Sean to get the TAC to write a letter to MassDOT in support of the design exception request from the city to the state requesting better bike lanes.

4. George will notify Lois Levin at Bike Newton about the Newton North Bike Safety Expo.
5. Sean will make a map suitable for the leaflet.
6. Jim will make a brochure from the map for distribution prior to the April 10 meeting.
7. George will find out who is on the Newton Upper Falls neighborhood council and invite them to the trail walk on April 3.
8. Sean will call the Ward 5 aldermen (Rice, Yates, Crossley) and Ward 8 aldermen (Fishman, Lapham, Friedman) to invite them to the trail walk on April 3.
9. Sean will help out on the Newton North Teen Safety Summit.
10. Sean will follow up with Larry Cash (Mass Highway) about bike accommodations at the planned Kendrick St./Rte. 128 crossing.

Adjourned at 9:50pm.