

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN
BICYCLE COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF
Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 3:00 pm
Meeting held in Caucus Hall, Town Hall**

Members Present: Roger Chauvette (Chair), Rik Ahlberg, Jeff Epstein, David Moorman, Will Erlandson

Members Absent: Max Cliggot-Perlt

Staff Present: Eric Larsen, DPW

Public Present: Peter Brown, Provincetown Banner; Robert Beaton, Arnold's Bikes

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Roger Chauvette at 3:05 PM.

2. Public Statements

Roger read a letter from Bill Meadows, owner of Ptown Bikes (see attachment). He wrote in opposition to the proposal from Zagster for a bike share program.

Robert Beaton introduced himself as the owner of Arnold's Bikes on Commercial Street. He spoke in favor of Bill Meadows' letter and against the Zagster bike share proposal.

Mr. Beaton made the following comments:

- visitors like Provincetown as Provincetown
- visitors are trying to get away from corporate America - they want to see the whales, the birds, the beaches
- this would impact employees of existing shops - about 20 employees between the 4 bike shops, who live and shop here
- it would dent my business and give the Provincetown bike experience a bad name - local bike shops can go out and help riders who get stuck or break down, the local flavor is important. Against it because of the effect it will have on the town.
- Would like to know the details of the bike share proposal - would town provide land or space? We are already very green.

Peter Brown from the Banner:

- happy to get lots of space for last week's bike article
- safety will be a higher profile with the accident last week on Commercial St.
- thinks there will be more attention to biking - the Banner will be on this
- we need to be documenting growth of biking in town
- Provincetown is the bike hub of the cape, we need the statistics on that traffic - put people at the ferry terminal to get counts of people who bring bikes to town.

Mr. Beaton: We have info on the seashore accidents

Mr. Brown: Safety needs to be stressed, is a proposal like the bike share going to make it less safe?

Mr. Beaton: Would the bikes be safe? maintained?

Mr. Brown: Last Wednesday a woman on Commercial St. was struck by a bike, she fell and shattered her elbow. Police have a report.

3. Review Minutes

Will moved to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2015 meeting. Roger seconded. Approved 4-0-0.

4. New Business

Bike sharing proposition:

Roger explained that he got a phone call from Julie at Zagster and an email addressed to the City of Provincetown. Roger felt the proposal looked like overkill for the short season we have, and when he told her this she seemed to lose interest. Roger said he wanted to make sure we discussed it since we have a proposal and there are other groups talking about bike sharing. He said he wants to make sure we discuss and consider it and address the issues that Mr. Beaton and Mr. Meadows presented in his letter. He said he expects those will come up again.

Rik discussed bike shares he's seen. He described the proposal that Provincetown 365's Parking & Transit group is putting together to locate parking on Route 6 and the idea for a community-based bike share that could be done as a collaboration between the bike shops in town.

Mr. Beaton said it might be good to work with the cab companies to pick people up at the parking lots and get people from the parking lot to the bike shop to get a bike.

Will said the infrastructure isn't there to support a bike share getting people to town - it's dangerous. This looks like a solution looking for a problem - what is the need it's intending to address?

Roger - seems to be a convenient thing for a city if you're using public transportation. Here you've got Arnold's right after the ferry, and the other bike shops are right there.

Rob - Boston Harbor Cruises tried to do a bike rental a number of years ago, Arnold's actually serviced them since they couldn't maintain them.

Jeff - no comment from me.

Roger - no decision to make, it's important that we have information and can respond to 365 or the selectmen if they have questions.

5. Old Business Updates

Bike Rack Matching Grant

David presented the revised bike grant application. He updated the amount of the grant, the dates, and added new contact information. The rest remains the same.

Rik moved to approve the bike rack cost share application revisions. Jeff second. Approved 4-0-0

Commercial St. Paving

Eric gave a summary of paving plans and said the town didn't get a grant from USDA for phase 3 Commercial St. (Howland St. to Johnson St) which would have redone the paving and sidewalks. DPW has finished paving of the the section in the East End near Howland and on Bradford St. up the hill behind town hall (Ryder St. to Carver St.).

MassBike: Detail work on objectives

- Could we video the rail trial with a drone?

- Do we want to walk it with MassBike or not?
- Discussion of shrinking Route 6 to one lane in each direction plus breakdown lane plus bike lane - about \$200k per mi just for painting and repaving
- Start at mayflower and walk trail to Howland
- Date: Wed June 3 @ 1 PM

Roger asked Eric if we can we get the documents related to creation of the Old Colony nature trail. Eric said he will look into it. We need to know if anyone has a right of way access to the trail for cars (there is a garage back there).

Police Cooperation

- Will said Officer Landry is no longer our liaison. He said he is waiting to hear from the Chief on officer assignment to the committee.
- Roger said we should suggest areas that need enforcement - night lights, speeding on Commercial St., wrong way on one ways
- Discussion of bikes that the police have on hand. Will suggested we find a way to have them benefit the community
- David said that the bike coop in Brewster may be a good place to donate bikes.

Bike Brochures

Roger said that he has been unable to reach the vendor who coordinated printing and distribution in the past. He said he will contact Mike Peregón to find out how to get the brochure reprinted and distributed.

Possible meeting with East Coast Greenway representatives

- Roger discussed possibly meeting with the East Coast Greenway team
- The group is based in Providence
 - Might be a good resource for when we have the OCBP meeting in town
 - They are developing a spur to Provincetown from Providence
 - They have experience dealing with abutters when developing trails
 - Roger will invite them to the next Outer Cape Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan meeting which will take place here in town.

WorldFest quiz, handouts, goals

- Rik requested handouts from from MassDOT (bells, lights, stickers, and ankle straps). These will be arriving in time for Bike Week next week
- World Fest is the weekend of June 6 & 7 - need to find out which day we will be there
- We will give attendees the safety quiz and then give out a reward from the handouts
- Will & David will be unavailable that weekend.

Conwell Street Bicycle Improvements update

- Eric provided an update on the Conwell St. bike lane project. The survey and engineering contract will be advertised this summer with two alternatives for bike lanes. Final design plans should be in hand by end of Sept., the out for bid & construction next spring.
- This is just the section of Conwell from 6 to Cemetery Rd
 - Does not address the Route 6 interchange, only 700 ft of Conwell St.
 - Construction would be Spring 2016.

6. Next meeting

May 27, 2015 at 3pm in Caucus Hall.

7. Member statements

None.

8. Adjourn

Roger made a motion to adjourn. Motion approved, 3-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rik Ahlberg

May 5, 2015

To the Bicycle Committee.

I own Ptown Bikes, which celebrated its 20th anniversary on April 1, 2015. We have a rental fleet of over 700 bicycles. Over the past 20 years we have built a solid reputation of delivering a quality rental product to our customers.

Please consider the service we provide to our bicycle rental customers as background when considering Zagsters Bike Share Proposal:

Bicycle riders deserve safe bikes, which deliver optimal performance and an enjoyable ride.

Ptown Bikes Staff inspects and test rides **every rental bike every time it is returned**. Our bikes go through a 14 point inspection and are then ridden to guarantee safe and excellent performance. Bikes which exhibit any mechanical deficiencies are flagged and put aside until they are repaired by one of our trained bicycle mechanics.

Bicycle riders should be provided with clean, well-fitted helmets.

Ptown Bikes recommends that everyone should wear a helmet while riding a bike. Persons under 18 years old are required to wear helmets. Ptown Bikes provides every rider with a disinfected helmet, which is then professionally fitted to each rider's head. You would be amazed at the number of riders who, when left on their own, put their helmets on backwards, push them too far back on their heads, or cannot properly align the straps. Undesirable and uncomfortable helmets do not get worn and ill-fitted helmets are not safe.

CONCERNS ABOUT ZAGSTER'S BIKE SHARE PROPOSAL

A bike share program will in no way provide the safety, quality, or level of service than the existing bike rental shops already provide. As I stated above rental bikes are meticulously maintained by bike shops. We do not wait for a complaint or accident to check the safety of our bikes. Safety equipment such as helmets and lights are checked for each use, and a human being is there to answer questions about bike safety and places to see. How will helmets be handled?

Besides the quality of product and service, there are a number of possible concerns and conflicts. These could not be specifically addressed until a specific plan is identified, but let me touch on a few possibilities.

ENOUGH RENTAL BIKES? Provincetown has four bicycle rental shops, Ptown Bikes, Gale Force Bikes, Arnold's Bikes, and the Bike Shack. I estimate the combined rental fleet of the four bike shops to be somewhere around 1500-1800 bikes. There are only two weeks where bikes become unavailable due to

lack of supply: July 4th week and Carnival week. Provincetown does not need a larger supply of bikes.

EFFECT ON EXISTING BUSINESSES? Will the proposed Bike Share program negatively affect the four privately owned bicycle rental shops in town? These are small businesses that have worked hard to get established and flourish.

AVAILABLE REAL ESTATE FOR STATIONS? Does Provincetown have real estate to site Bike Share Stations? Provincetown does not even have enough bike racks to take care of the existing bikes in town. Do we really have room for these? Also, would a bike share program be given an unfair business advantage such as allowing a station on MacMillan Pier or any other Town owned real estate such as parking spaces?

WHO GETS THE \$\$\$\$. My last concern is to follow the money. Every business venture is trying to turn a profit. Who benefits financially from this Bike Share program in Provincetown? Corporate sponsors? Advertisers? Do we really want to see corporate logos such as Citibank or Chase all over town?

Provincetown has a long history of supporting and protecting the network of small businesses that flourish here. So, is an automated bike share program the right fit for Provincetown? Is it the image you want for Provincetown? Does Provincetown *need* a bike share program? Or is it a current, glittery, hi-tech idea better suited to metropolitan areas.

Keep the Provincetown in Provincetown. Support your small businesses.

Thank you for your time considering my concerns.

Bill Meadows
Ptown Bikes
42 Bradford St
Provincetown, MA 02657