

Bicycle Committee Minutes for 8/8/2012

Meeting called to order by Candace at 1:00 pm

Members present: Candace Nagle, Jeff Epstein, Mike Peregón, Roger Chauvette, Bill Meadows

Guests: David Gardner, Asst Town Manager; Jeff Jaran, Provincetown Chief of Police; Dan Alexander, Safety Consultant for National Seashore; Clay Schoenfeld, Cape Cod Commission on speaker phone.

Public Comment: David Polando, Congestion, pedestrians, bicycle traffic, ear bud use all contribute to problems on Commercial Street and should all be an integral part of community rules. Education is better, civility is best. David has been hit twice by cars, as well as by pedestrians and bikers.

Police Chief Jeff Jaran:

Would like to work with education as his goal. Have officers hand out education cards. Bill asked if volunteers could work. Chief Jaran said that could work out well because officers get accused of harassing the public. He could use traffic control volunteers instead. When asked if pedestrians would be included in the safety education he thought it was too much to bite off.

There is also concern about bicycles on Bradford Street. Bicycles routinely go through stop signs at Ryder Street. Mike Peregón asked if we have any statistics or data on bike accidents. The chief said there was data, but many are not recorded because the people are gone by the time police arrive.

Dan Alexander said the Seashore keeps data and primarily uses it to make infrastructure changes. There was a recent safety event at the Race Point Visitors Center. Bike safety was the focus. Free bicycle safety checks. Free helmets given away. Basic rules and signage featured.

Clay: The language barrier needs to be addressed because of the seasonal workers and tourists from other countries. Clay provided videos to Chief Jaran for training use. Also might be used on PTV.

Mike: Would issuing real tickets help curb aggressive riders?

Chief Jaran: The selectmen want a more proactive approach.

The question came up whether there are specific times of worst problems. Chief Jaran said the the problems during different times of the day are different kinds of problems. Late night problems might include less congestion but people who have been drinking are riding faster... Chief Jaran said he would try to put together some

data and a report about where problem spots are. He will implement Friday Aug 17 and make a press release on Wed.

Candace: Should we have more sharrow? And are they too small?

David: He is now prepared to paint more sharrows since the original ones have gotten good comments. We could address the size now that they have been tried. Originally the selectmen were worried about the size, but now seem open to larger sharrows.

Candace: Can we make Bradford Street more attractive to cyclists? Discussion that Bradford Street's main detraction is the hills. Bicycle lanes for climbing hills could help? Like from Winthrop east to Court street? Would require removing parking spaces near the Brass Key? Also climbing the hill from Winslow up to Prince Street.

Is the bike theft rate higher this year? Chief Jaran said it was average.

How to get the information out to town residents: piggyback brochure with other town mailings... parking permits seems to be the only mailing that would allow an additional brochure. Bill mentioned that Real Estate Offices might include the brochure in their weekly rental envelopes. 20,000 brochures were definitely not enough, especially if we are looking for more ways to get them into the public's hands. Ask selectmen for a bigger budget.

Motion made by Candace Nagel to purchase 6 plexiglass donation boxes from the Provincetown Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Gift Fund to be distributed to interested businesses for collecting donations for above fund. Approved 5-0-0

Motion made by Mike Peregón to make Roger Chauvette the Provincetown Bicycle Committee representative to the Regional Outer Cape Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Planning Committee. Approved 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned 3:10 pm

Respectfully submitted, Bill Meadows