

Meeting Minutes

Salem Bicycling Advisory Committee

Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street
First Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Joe O’Neil (Chair), Dan Shuman, Jayne O’Leary, Ray Swartz, Michael Jaros

Members Absent: Richard Frank, Kylie Sullivan, Michael Williamson, Eric Papetti

Also Present: Tom Devine, Senior Planner

Call Meeting to Order

Chair O’Neil opens the meeting.

Bike Parking Guidelines – Review of Planning Board Comments

Devine distributed the 11/14/2018 memorandum from Staff Planner Ashely Green summarizing the Planning Board’s comments. He states that the comments are not extensive or major, except for the Planning Board’s suggestion that this be done with an ordinance rather than guidelines. The Committee generally agrees that guidelines are appropriate at this time and that an ordinance may be necessary in the future. Devine states that he will make the specific edits suggested by the Planning Board, incorporate anything good from other bike parking resources, and return to the Committee with a more final draft.

Members discuss the Planning Board’s comment regarding specifying durable materials. Devine states that the guidelines and resources he has reviewed don’t seem to refer to materials. He took inspiration from the Cambridge guidelines to encourage certain types of better racks, and the wording of this draft allows creative designs with approval by the Planning Director. Shuman says racks are typically aluminum or galvanized steel. O’Neil asks what kind of properties would be subject to this. Devine says it would be projects reviewed by the Planning Board—basically larger private developments. The guidelines can also be a resource for public racks the City installs.

A member of the public comments on the roles of the Committee and the Mayor in supporting biking in Salem.

Bicycle Master Plan Update

Devine reports that he met with Jenna Ide, Director of Capital Improvements & Municipal Operations, to strategize about implementing the Bike Plan recommendations. The City will be contracting with Toole Design Group to complete preliminary designs and budget estimates for some of the plan’s recommended projects. This will bring the projects to a place where we could apply for grant funding or local CIP funds. One of the potential grants is the state’s MassTrails

program. Devine also reports that the City's GIS Administrator has been integrating the Bike Master Plan recommendations into mapping of the City's capital improvement projects. So when the City is paving a street, adding sidewalks, or whatnot, we will see what the Bike Plan recommendations are for that area.

Bike Share Update

A member asks when the system will enter winter hibernation. Devine states that Zagster will accommodate Salem State University's request to keep the system operating until the end of the semester at Christmas time. There have been over 9,500 rides and this year and September had higher ridership than October. The City is looking at expanding the system this spring, but details of likely increased sponsor support are not final enough to go public. Zagster's contract ends after the next season. Devine has been looking at a potential collective procurement process to bring North Shore communities together under a single bike share system. The Committee discusses the way the system is funded.

2018 Moving Together Conference Summary

Devine says he and Eric Papetti attended this conference. Topics covered included the latest on bike shares, e-bikes, e-scooters, and funding for bike infrastructure. The experience is helping to shape the City's potential approach to a collective procurement for a regional bike share, which now could include e-bikes and e-scooters. Devine says he sensed a lot of excitement at the conference about current resources available for bikes. He wanted Eric to have a chance to convey any key take home messages to the Committee, but since he is absent, he may have to do it at the next meeting.

Miscellaneous Updates

A member expresses disappointment with the configuration of the striping and signage on Canal Street. The Committee discusses the topic. One issue raised is the limited access points to the existing Bike Path. Devine states that Phase II is even more fenced in because it is surrounded by train tracks and private properties. One exception is at the new private development at 142 Canal Street that will include two public access points to the path.

Devine announces that David Kucharsky has been hired as the City's new Director of Traffic & Parking. He has a background in transportation planning and most recently served as Lexington's Planning Director.

Shuman plugs the upcoming National Bike Summit and suggests that someone from the Committee or the City should attend.

Adjourn

Shuman motions and Williamson seconds to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. and all vote in favor.

Approved by the Bicycling Advisory Committee on February 19, 2019.