

## **Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)**

Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2015

Submitted by Chris Dippel

The meeting took place in the Town Hall Room 408 at 7:00 PM.

**Present:** Cynthia Snow, John Dempsey, Don McNamara, Chris Dippel, Thomas Vitolo, and Officer Kevin Fallon representing Sgt. Mark Trahon

**Absent:** Bryan Decker

**Public:** John Bowman, Henry Winkelman, Anne Lusk, Tom Kildive, Frank Caro, Mark Lowenstein

**Handouts:** agenda; January and March meeting minutes; new BAC advertising cards; Brookline Police map and spreadsheet summary of motor vehicle/bicycle accidents for 2014.

### **Introductions**

- The BAC members and attendees introduced themselves.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- The committee approved the January and March meeting minutes.

### **Proposal for Pedestrian Districts**

- Mr. Caro presented a proposal for the creation of pedestrian districts in Brookline which would include pedestrian-friendly accommodations such as: wider sidewalks, street seating, lighting, inspection and enforcement of snow removal regulations, and crosswalk marking. A copy of his presentation is available at <http://brooklinebikes.org/Pedestrian.html>
- The members and attendees asked questions, discussed the proposal, and noted:
  - The plan may be best accomplished through the Complete Streets Committee.
  - A budget will be required.
  - Relocation of overhead wiring to underground might be included.
  - Additional districts could be at St. Mary's and Beacon and at the High School.
  - Improving on-street bicycle accommodations may decrease bicycle use of sidewalks.

### **Bike Parade**

- Mr. Dempsey reported the plans are on track and marshals are needed.

### **Beacon Street Hill—Marion to Washington Square**

- Ms. Snow proposed that the BAC include a public hearing at the June meeting.

### **Current and FY2016 CIP Projects**

- Ms. Snow reported the CIP Advisory Committee Subcommittee had approved \$105K for bicycling accommodations. This budget will be reviewed by the full Advisory committee.
- The BAC discussed the following upcoming paving projects and will request the Transportation Department consider the following bicycle accommodations:
  - **Greenough Street**—Protected bike lane on the right going from Washington Street to the High School, with sharrows in the other direction since this is a route heavily used by students on their way to school in the morning (as shown in bike counts at Washington and Park). In the morning, everyone is traveling in the same direction at the same time, and it is also rush hour. In the afternoon, when school is letting out, departures are more spread out, and it is NOT rush hour.
  - **Newton Street**—Horace Mann Circle to Newton City Line—Cycle tracks or bike lanes on both sides. This is a very wide street that already has good shoulders, but the traffic

moves very fast, so narrowing the travel lanes and adding bicycle accommodations should make the street safer for everyone. It is an important (only!) route to Skyline Park and the Transfer Station.

- **Babcock Street**—Cycle tracks (protected bike lanes) to connect to the recently approved cycle tracks on Commonwealth Avenue.

### **Proposed Bicycling Accommodations at the Devotion School**

- Ms. Snow reported that Mr. Kirrane noted the locations of proposed bike racks at the school and reported that the project will be considered at a Transportation Board hearing in April.

### **Bicycling in Brookline Forum**

- Ms. Snow reported that the meeting on March 17 went well with good attendance (about 60 or more people) and the many comments have been summarized and will be put on the BAC website.

### **DCR Roads in Brookline**

- Ms. Snow reported that she was in communication with Andreae Downs of Newton who noted that the DCR draft scope of work for the planning process will be out this spring and she will let the BAC know so that we may have input.

### **Gateway East Project**

- Ms. Snow reported that the next public meeting (scheduled but cancelled in February) has not yet been rescheduled. There is some concern that the State is proposing cycle tracks but the Town is not enthusiastic about them.

### **League of American Cyclists Application**

- Ms. Snow reported that a change in the format of the application has caused another delay, but she is intent on having a draft available next month.

### **Brookline Enhanced Map Project**

- Ms. Snow reported that she had added details to a map being developed by Dino Teddyputra and Jennifer Anderson that will include bicycle routes and accommodations. The map should eventually be available on-line.

### **BAC Advertising Card**

- Mr. Dempsey handed out 100 cards per member and described his method of their distribution.

### **Brookline Police Report on Accidents Involving Bicycles**

- Officer Fallon provided the map and summary, and the committee agreed to postpone discussion until members had time to study them.

### **Bike Riding Training Area Project**

- Dr. Lusk reported progress was being made on a trial bike riding training area for children in a paved section of Robinson Playground on Cypress Street, with the support of Erin Gallentine.

### **Hubway Advisory Committee Meeting**

- Mr. Dippel reported that the committee was given an overview by Joe Viola of the Transportation Department (available at <http://www.brooklinema.gov/1220/Hubway-Advisory-Committee>). He reported that the Town's system is funded for about a year and is unsustainable in the current profit-sharing model. Future steps may include renegotiation prompted by the new system manager, Motivate, and incorporation into a regional system.

### **New Business**

- The BAC went into closed session to discuss the process for selecting a candidate for recommendation for addition to the committee and decided to have a public meeting, but without public comment, to meet and question the five candidates who have submitted applications. Mr. Dippel will work on polling the BAC and candidates on dates for the meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting of the BAC will be Monday, May 4, 2015.