

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2015

Submitted by John Dempsey

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

Present: Cynthia Snow, John Dempsey, Kristin Schreiber, Thomas Vitolo, Nathaniel Fink, and Sgt Brian Sutherland

Absent: Don McNamara, Bryan Decker

Presenter: Kara Brewton

Public: John Bowman, John Harris

Handouts: Agenda

Introductions

Kara Brewton, Brookline Economic Development Director

Minutes

The August 3, 2015, minutes were approved.

Election of chair and secretary for 2015-2016

- Ms. Snow was elected chair by acclamation. In accepting, she made it clear that she wants to retire from the chairmanship at the end of the 2015-2016 year.
- Mr. Dempsey offered to take the minutes of the September meeting in anticipation of a more representative and expanded slate of candidates for secretary at the October 5th meeting.

Presentation and discussion on a draft of Brookline's proposed Transportation Demand Management Policy – Kara Brewton

Ms. Brewton gave an overview of Transportation Demand Management Policy: the concept, the history in Brookline and other municipalities, the bearing on Brookline, and the “Grades” and “Points” scoring system proposed in the draft. She asked the BAC to focus discussion primarily on bicycle facilities. Members made several suggestions:

- Add “secure/covered bike facility” to the list.
- Some accommodations listed under “Transit” also apply to both “Pedestrian” and “Bicycle” as well--for example, “guaranteed ride home” for employees who bike to work.
- It may be that there should be separate sets of points for residential as opposed to commercial developments.
- Bike lanes adjacent to parked cars are different from bike lanes adjacent to curbs.
- How does one assign a grade to a street that has a bike lane in one direction but just sharrows in the other?
- Would “Bicyclist comfort level” be a better measure?
- May want to switch grading for “Bike sharing” to recognize the importance of docking stations located in areas where bicyclists are more comfortable.
- Should showers be of equal value despite different grades of existing facilities?

Ms. Brewton asked the BAC to edit the “Existing Bike Accessibility” slide, which defines the different grades (A, B, C) given to existing facilities. BAC subcommittee of Ms. Snow, Dr. Schreiber, and Mr. Fink will work on a plan to superimpose “comfort level” on the existing slide (Define A-B-C by comfort). They will aim for a map later in the process.

Bicycle Friendly Community Application

Ms. Snow will invite Transportation Staff to the October 5th meeting to discuss content and review needed within Town government. The next submission deadline is February 2016

Bicycle Counts (Week of September 21st)

- No counts on Yom Kippur – Wednesday, September 22nd.

Tabling at Brookline Events

- BCAN (Thursday, September 17, 5 PM, Senior Center) - Ms. Snow and Mr. Winkelman will staff the BAC table.
- Brookline Day (Sunday, September 20, 11 AM-3 PM, Larz Anderson Park) – Ms. Snow seeks volunteers to staff the table, particularly 1 – 3 PM and cleanup. Table will be shared with Public Transit Advisory Comm. Dr. Schreiber will check her availability. Mr. Fink may also be available and will try to get a pop-up tent for the table.

CIP Proposals and Revisions/Additions for Green Routes Plan

- Ms. Snow shared correspondence with Mr. Kirrane about the time frame for study and review of improvements on the Beacon Street Hill (Marion to Washington Square westbound).
- Mr. Vitolo suggested that we have other projects in place for the next CIP since the timeframe for Babcock Street improvements is going to be tight. He also suggested that traffic calming and pedestrian improvements likely for Babcock Street should not come from funds dedicated to bicycle infrastructure improvements.
- Suggestions (for CIP 16 as well as Green Routes additions):
 - Wayfinding signs from BU Bridge to and from Coolidge Corner. Perhaps this could dovetail with Town efforts to standardize signage.
 - Green paint on Essex Street across Dummer Street to alert left-turning drivers on Dummer Street that people on bikes are likely to cross in front of them.
 - Bike corral in Coolidge Corner
 - More bike racks, e.g. Washington and Cypress, Town Hall
 - Newton Street and Grove Street to Putterham Circle
 - Walnut Street improvements from Warren Street to Route 9 (sharrows)
 - Prioritizing safety improvements at intersections

Other business

- Mr. Dempsey proposed the date for the ninth Bicycle Parade – Sunday, May 22, 2016. The Police Community Service Division supports that date, and in 2016 it will NOT conflict with BU's graduation. Ms. Snow will ask to put it on the Transportation Board agenda.
- Mr. Vitolo and Mr. Dempsey proposed a mass email to solicit Bicycle Count volunteers, update the public on the latest infrastructure improvements and how to negotiate them while on a bicycle, and bring to riders' attention that two members of the BAC are dancing in the annual Dancing with the Brookline Stars and would appreciate support. Mr. Vitolo and Mr. Dempsey will agree on a draft of the message.

Upcoming Meetings

- Next meeting: Monday, October 5, 2015
- Other meetings for 2015: November 2, December 7
- Meetings for 2016: (First Monday of the month, except as noted): January 4, February 1, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, WEDNESDAY July 5, August 2, WEDNESDAY September 7, October 3, November 7, December 5

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Tasks:

- Mr. Fink will see if he can borrow a pop-up tent for 9/20/15.
- Dr. Schreiber and Mr. Fink will check on their availability to be at the BAC table on 9/20/15
- Ms. Snow will seek to put the Bike Parade date of May 22, 2016 on the Transportation Board agenda.
- Ms. Snow will invite Transportation Staff to the October 5, 2015 meeting.
- Mr. Vitolo and Mr. Dempsey will agree on wording for the mass email.
- Ms. Snow will set up and cover the BAC table on 9/20 until 1 PM
- Ms. Snow, Dr. Schreiber, and Mr. Fink will meet to superimpose “comfort level” on the existing slide (Define A-B-C by comfort).