

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2015, Town Hall Room 408 at 7:00 PM.
Submitted by Cynthia Snow and John Dempsey

Present: Cynthia Snow, Bryan Decker, Tommy Vitolo, Don McNamara, John Dempsey, Nathaniel Fink, and Sgt. Brian Sutherland

Absent: Kristin Schreiber

Public: Scott Englander, Mitch Heineman

Journalism students from Mass Bay and BU: Brielle Farruggio, Zach Shander, Brigid King, Jane Rose, Casey Mintz, Jasmin Daszkai, Jon Sigal, Audrey White

Minutes: The October minutes will be reviewed at the December 7, 2015 meeting.

Complete Streets Policy Draft – Scott Englander

Mr. Englander reviewed the background, process and key points of the Draft Complete Streets Policy, which was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. The process began with a well-attended public forum in June 2014, which generated interest in pursuing complete streets options for Brookline. The Board of Selectmen created the Complete Streets Study Committee and approved its charge in October 2014 and appointed its 11 members in January 2015, when the committee began its work to develop a policy. The committee is co-chaired by Mr. Englander and Selectman Wishinsky, and Mr. Vitolo and Mr. Heineman served on the committee. Having an approved policy will make the Town eligible to apply for MassDOT's Complete Streets Program.

The draft policy is currently being vetted by various Town boards and committees to solicit suggestions; there will then be a public hearing, and a submission of the policy to the Board of Selectmen for adoption. An implementation plan will be developed, and results evaluated using various metrics that will be made public and included in annual reports to MassDOT.

The Committee was very pleased with and supportive of the policy and discussed a couple of specific examples where complete streets principles might usefully be applied.

Climate Week (March 28 - April 3, 2016)

The Committee discussed possible events to sponsor during Climate Week such as

- 1) A Brookline Bike Summit similar to the one we held at the Coolidge Corner Library last year
- 2) A film night similar to the forum at the Coolidge Corner Theater last year
- 3) A "Get your bikes out of the basement" event to get bikes ready for the season

Carlton Street Footbridge – Wednesday, November 4, 7 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Room

MassDOT will host the meeting.

Bicycle access/safety will probably be a topic.

Mr. Vitolo and Ms. Snow will craft a statement indicating support for the project, and we will include the footbridge in the next revision of the *Green Routes Bicycle Network Plan*.

Mr. Dempsey will try to be at the meeting to vocalize that the BAC plans to advise the Transportation Board to express confidence in the Transportation staff to find ways to make the intersection of Carlton St, Monmouth Path, and the footbridge safe for all users.

Beacon Street outbound from Marion Street to Lancaster Terrace

There are no new developments.

Mr. Vitolo explained why a bike path between the sidewalk and parked cars is not an option (emergency vehicles clearance).

The question was raised as to whether this section should be signed for “No Parking” during rush hours or if one parking space could be removed at the pinch point.

Bicycle Comfort Ratings

Ms. Snow had a map of Brookline with some routes marked in green, blue, or red depending on comfort ratings.

Members of the committee discussed several different streets and how they should be colored. Many streets are asymmetrical in that they have bike lanes on one side but only sharrows on the other side. Assigning comfort levels is very subjective.

In addition, the Committee still needs to discuss how developers could get “points” for supplying certain accommodations. How should value be assigned?

Bicycle Count Results

Ms. Snow distributed the tables electronically before the meeting.

There was discussion about low numbers at certain checkpoints. Weather (threatened rain later in the day during the second week of counts) may have resulted in lower numbers.

There is a general increase in the number of bicyclists over the years of the census.

Bike Friendly Community Application

Ms. Snow reported that Mr. Kirrane is making it a priority to finish his part of the application in time for the February 2016 deadline.

Revisions/Additions for Green Routes Plan

The Committee discussed several additions:

- Carlton Street Footbridge
- Willow Pond Road
- Longwood Avenue Bridge and Chapel Street problems
- Contraflow on Ivy Street between St. Mary’s Street and Carlton Street
- Bike lanes on Route 9/Boylston Street
- Bike racks – particularly on the High School campus

Bike Parade – Sunday, May 22, 2016

Mr. Dempsey reported that Mr. John Harris, in conjunction with Climate Action Brookline, would like to organize an alternative vehicle fair at Amory Park and Amory Street during the Bike Parade.

This would necessitate closing Amory Street for a longer period of time that afternoon.

Follow-up

Ms. Snow reported on the MIT_Route9 East Project meeting on October 28, 2016.

FY 2017 Capital improvement projects:

- Since Beacon Street will not be done in the near future, Mr Kirrane has suggested we turn to Babcock Street. The Committee felt that that money should not be used to pay for striping that will be part of any resurfacing project anyway. (Babcock Street committee has not yet met.)

- Green paint at the intersection of Dummer Street and Essex Street
- We need estimates for work on other streets. Newton Street, Grove Street were mentioned.

Other items:

Mr. Decker will serve on the Hubway Committee.

Because of a scheduling conflict, Mr. Heineman will represent the bicycling community at the next Planning and Development meeting.

It was decided to add Bicycle Benefits to the “resources” section of the website, but not the “apps” link, which is basically commercial ads.

Adjournment: 9 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, December 7, 2016

2016 meeting dates, all meetings in Room 408, Town Hall (First Monday of the month except as noted):

January 4, February 1, March 7, April 4, WEDNESDAY, May 4, June 6, WEDNESDAY, July 6, August 1, WEDNESDAY, September 7, October 3, November 7, December 5