

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for February 1, 2016, Town Hall Room 408 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Kristin Schreiber and Cynthia Snow

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

Absent: John Dempsey

Public: John Harris, Nick Schmidt, Mitch Heineman, and David Kroop

Minutes: The January meeting minutes were approved with one addition

Climate Week (March 28-April 3)—BAC events on Saturday, April 2

- Morning bike ride—John Dempsey and Bryan Decker
- Bike repair—help and advice—Bryan Decker and Irv Kurki plus other volunteers
- BAC information table—adjacent to bike repairs; would be good to have it staffed as feasible
- Complete Streets panel: Chris Dempsey, moderator; Scott Englander on Complete Streets Policy, Jane Gould on transit, Bob Sloane on walking, Cynthia Snow on bicycling. Brief presentations by panelists, with plenty of time for public questions and discussions

Green Routes Plan Revisions

- 2016 revisions accepted by Transportation Board (Jan 2016)
- Begin revisions for 2017—suggestions included
 - ⌘ Signage, e.g. change lanes to pass;
 - ⌘ Maintenance of bike accommodations
 - ⌘ Intersection safety
 - ⌘ Fill gaps in bike lanes and other network elements, e.g., Netherlands Road between Parkway and Muddy River path
 - ⌘ Updating infrastructure (e.g., double yellow lines for contraflow lanes)
- Map showing types of bicycle accommodations on Brookline's Streets

Follow-Up

- Beacon Street westbound, Marion St to Westbourne Terrace (Transportation Board, Feb 4, 7:00 MLK Room at Brookline High)
- Bicycle Friendly Community Application (Transportation Board, Feb 4; Selectmen, February 9)
- I90-Beacon Yards-Babcock St Project: Implications for Brookline (T-Board approved/sent letter recommended by PTAC and BAC; public information meeting will be February 29)
- Updates from BAC members attending/serving on other committees:
 - ⌘ Babcock Street (Staff-appointed committee)—N. Fink, N. Schmidt, J. Harris
Committee has discussed making Babcock northbound one way to allow for bike lanes, with possible exception for Manchester to Freeman to improve circulation within the immediate neighborhood. An informal survey of parking spaces along Babcock at various times of day found only 18-34 parked cars at any time (of a total of 66 spaces)
 - ⌘ Complete Streets—Vitolo: There will be a meeting and public hearing Wednesday, February 3rd, 7:00 pm 111 Town Hall for comment on the draft policy; next step will be bringing it before selectmen
 - ⌘ Hubway—B. Decker; will be meeting soon, more on this next meeting
 - ⌘ Economic Development—M. Heineman outlined difficulties for developing in Brookline
 - ⌘ Open Space—J. Dempsey (public meeting to present plan revision, February 8th, 7:00 Senior Center)
- Bicycle Accommodation Projects
 - ⌘ Fisher Avenue—approved, work in progress

- ⌘ Greenough Street--approved
- ⌘ Newton St (Horace James Circle to Newton Town Line)--approved
- ⌘ Spring 2016—Route 9 crossing for Emerald Necklace Paths—being re-bid
- ⌘ FY16—One bike corral

Bicycle comfort map and accommodation scaling system

The general purpose is to provide a menu and prioritization scheme for including bicycle-friendly accommodations as part of new development projects, both commercial and residential, as was requested of us by Kara Brewton.

General points made regarding the accommodation list:

1. Not every accommodation will be appropriate for every location. There should be a qualification accompanying this list that any accommodation has to make sense, and is subject to approval.
2. While some items on the list may lend themselves well to being “scaled” in points awarded (i.e. more points given for making these accommodations on a low comfort “C” street), others should perhaps be flat
3. The points awarded to each of the items should be somewhat, or entirely, aligned with the cost of those accommodations. There was some debate around this issue, with opinions ranging from making the points strictly and uniformly cost based, to inflating the cost of certain high priority accommodations in certain areas in order to make these more attractive to developers.
4. There should be some consideration as to whether it is a public vs private development, perhaps different point scales for these?
5. Input to Kara arising from this discussion should include a statement that many of these accommodations should be viewed as standard or routine, and points should be given to those that are above this minimum standard.
6. There needs to be a consideration of one-time vs. ongoing costs in this point system, and a definition of how long ongoing costs will be maintained.
7. Several items were eliminated from the list, including signage, handrails/footrails at intersections, funds for bike education, allocating community space for bike education, and the idea of sponsoring a space for hub of transit should be shifted into a general category. An additional item included bike tune-up/repair stations.
8. ASSIGNMENT: Each member of the committee present will take home this scale and, for the remaining items on the list, edit ratings in column B, and indicate whether each category should be scaled or flat, and communicate with Kristin or bring this for review to next meeting.

Other business:

Mr. Vitolo mentioned that Frank Caro is seeking to develop a for pedestrian committee, and that it would be good to have bicycle advocate on this committee in order to enhance the ability to facilitate benefits for both bicyclists and pedestrians.

Next meeting: Monday, March 7, 2016

2016 meeting dates, all meetings in Room 408, Town Hall: (First Monday of the month, except as noted): January 11, 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