

Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2017, Town Hall Room 408, 7:00 PM

Submitted by Kristin Schreiber

Members Present: Jacob Meunier, Cynthia Snow, John Bowman, Kristin Schreiber, Bryan Decker, Tommy Vitolo, Jonathan Kapust (Transportation Board liaison), Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

Member Absent: Mark Lowenstein

Public: Jules Milner-Brage, Mitch Heineman, Guus Driessen, Anne Lusk, David Kroop, Jeremy Hutner, Renske Braunstein, Arthur Braunstein, Barbara Camp, Susan Santos, David Kavanaghs, Thomas Gallegos, Theresa Campbell, Walter Einstein, Jenny Amory, Kristen Fronske, Eddie Benjamin, Shannon Notebaert, Jon Frankel, Ian Wapinski, Mike Toffler, Enrique Tamayo, Jonathan Davis (TMM)

1. Minutes of the August 2017 meeting were approved as circulated.

2. Discussion of options for possible bicycle accommodations on **Park Street** between Harvard Avenue and Washington Street

- No plan has been suggested by the BAC but rather a suggestion for some sort of improvement for bicycle safety was made by a member of the community.
- Suggestions included a bike lane approaching Washington St, a partial (timed) parking ban during peak travel times and traffic calming. It was noted that 7:30-8:00 AM is the busiest time, presumably due to commuters to the high school

Community Members present made the following points:

- This street is busy and can't be made one way
- The street is too narrow to consider a full bike lane.
- Empirical data on traffic flow and accidents are needed, specifically on how bike safety would be improved by reducing parking.
- The parent of a child who biked this route to high school would love to have a bike lane, as biking on the sidewalk is not easy or desirable
- Park St is densely populated and parking is in high demand on Park and adjacent streets.
- Brookline needs more bike lanes generally in Brookline, and this is an important stretch.
- Install signs encouraging cars to use directional signals in this stretch to improve safety of cyclists and pedestrians
- Vehicle speeds are too high and potholes contribute to danger for cyclists; getting rid of parking would help
- Install signage to make cars more aware of bikes.
- Traffic calming would be helpful to reduce vehicle speed
- Consider the safe routes to school map to see if parking limit would improve safety or alternate safe routes can be suggested
- Mr. Davis, town meeting member: Park St has dense elderly and disabled housing facilities, with many visitors and health aides who need parking; he shared documentation of 3 bike accidents along Park, one of which was a bike striking a parked vehicle.
- There are often emergency vehicles parked along this route, responding to 911 calls.

Informal show of hands for

Making Park a one way- approximately 5% in favor

Support for traffic calming- approximately 90% in favor

3. Selection of **Chair and Secretary for 2017-18**

John Bowman, Chair: nominated, seconded, and voted in 5 in favor, 1 abstention, 1 absent
Kristin Schreiber will continue as secretary

4. **Hammond Street** Community Workshop report (prepared by Nidhi Gulati of LivableStreets and Cynthia Snow) was reviewed; the suggestion was made that the plan for bike lanes on both sides be recommended, with three travel lanes, one in each direction plus a center left turn lane, except that at the two ends of the street, the third lane would become a travel lane in the direction approaching the James rotary on one end and Route 9 on the other end. Committee consensus was that the workshop report should be put into the Green Routes Plan, but with the understanding that the 9th school siting may need to be resolved first.

5. **Budget requests** for bike projects: The Dummer-Essex intersection was moved from FY 2018 to FY 2019, but we need specific suggestions of projects for following years or for FY19 if the project is delayed again. Two suggestions from the public:

- Bicycle signal trial/experiment; Anne Lusk has an analysis and plan written, and she advocated for pursuing other funding mechanisms for this
- More bike parking in several locations around Brookline would improve safety for pedestrians as well as cyclists' convenience

6. Discussion of ideas for **Green Routes Plan (2018 Revisions)**

Beacon Street "bridle path" proposal: Jules Milner-Brage explained this concept in some detail, citing the historical context and the feasibility for a two-way cycle track in the center of Beacon Street. The committee agreed that further study of this concept, with the help of engineering students (if approved by the Transportation Board) would be worth considering further. As a plan is developed, applicable regulations (e.g., with a path near tracks) need to be considered. All interested parties should be consulted including residents, pedestrians, cyclists, local and state offices (e.g., MBTA, DOT). Mr. Bowman will consult with Mr. Kirrane and Dr. Safer on how best to proceed.

7. **Beacon Street Bike Lane (outbound, Marion to Westbourne):** Transportation Department report should be completed soon; Mr. Bowman will check with Mr. Kirrane on opportunity for BAC review.

8. **Hubway:** Mr. Meunier will be the BAC representative to the Brookline Hubway committee, which has not yet met. In the meantime, Brookline residents may be interested in attending Boston meetings on sites being considered in neighborhoods near Brookline's borders. Ms. Snow will circulate information.

9. Plantings at hotel at Route 9 and Brookline Avenue: Recommendations on expanding plantings beyond tree pits was discussed; the consensus was that if they don't narrow the bike lane, there would be no objection.

10. **Bike counts ongoing** (September 11-14 and 18-20)

11. **Future work:** With reconstruction of Cypress field, there is an opportunity for contraflow lane across one end; projected construction at Tappan and Cypress should also be considered.

12. **Bike lane violation report:** modifying report, possibility suggested that parking violation officers be allowed to ticket violators

Next meeting: Monday, October 2, 2017, Room 408