

Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for October 2, 2017, Town Hall Room 408, 7:00 PM

Submitted by Cynthia Snow

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

Member Absent: Kristin Schreiber

Public: Jules Milner-Brage, David Kroop, Nicole Klemin

Minutes of the September 2017 meeting were approved as circulated.

Certificate of appreciation was presented to Cynthia Snow, chair of the committee for eight years, by the new chair, John Bowman.

Bike Parade: John Dempsey is willing to continue to organize the annual Bike Parade. He asks for recommendations for someone to help with getting the word out on social media.

Bike Counts were conducted in September with 15 volunteers. Ms. Snow distributed and discussed the results, noting the steady increase in numbers of cyclists over the 10 years of the counts, the addition of a count on the Muddy River Path (which Boston had counted in the past), the new lack of cyclists on the sidewalk between Marion and Westbourne Terrace, and the biggest change over the years at Essex and Dummer, which has many cyclists traveling to and from the BU Bridge. Comments included an interest in knowing origin/destination for cyclists (some information may be available from the LMA Commuter Survey), and the number of children.

Livable Streets Presentation on metro Boston greenways offered by Nidhi Gulati for BAC, Pedestrian Committee and others: The committee liked the idea and Mr. Meunier agreed to contact the Pedestrian and Public Transit Committees and find a November date (other than a BAC meeting date) when this could be arranged.

Beacon Street “Bridle Path” Proposal: Mr. Milner-Brage reported that Professor Peter Furth is supervising a student who is researching the feasibility, possible design and cost estimate for a two-way protected path on the wide side of Beacon Street. Mr. Bowman said that Dr. Safer is aware of the student project and looks forward to seeing the results. Once the student project is finished, the BAC will review the results and determine whether and how to proceed.

Capital Improvement Projects: Mr. Bowman has been discussing future CIP projects with Dr. Safer, Mr. Kirrane, Ms. Snow and Mr. Vitolo. It has been suggested that the BAC request projects of different scopes for FY 2020 and 2021. (The Essex-Dummer intersection project delayed from the current fiscal year is scheduled for FY 2019.) Any very large projects need to be requested several years in advance so that they can be appropriately planned. The committee discussed various possibilities and agreed that improvements to the Harvard Street bike lanes—including making them continuous—is a high priority, as are improvements to Washington Street. Mr. Vitolo will write up a short but detailed description of suggested work for Washington Street.

Commonwheels is a non-profit connected to Landry’s Bicycles that has been offering free bike clinics in Allston and Brighton. They would like to offer the same at Beacon and Pleasant on the small park. Although it has no authority to authorize use of the park, the BAC expressed appreciation for the effort as long as the necessary permission is obtained from Brookline Police or Transportation Department.

Police Report: Sgt. Sutherland distributed the crash report, which he just received, and said he would send more details as soon as he can get them.

Hubway Committee will be having its first meeting on October 11th; Mr. Meunier represents BAC.

Beacon Street in Boston: Mr. Meunier reported that Beacon Street from Arlington to Mass Ave will be repaved next year, and in the meantime, Boston will install various temporary protected bike lanes as an experiment for study and adjustment as needed.

Babcock Street: A Transportation Board meeting is being scheduled soon. [Note: Meeting subsequently scheduled for November 6.]

Park St: The Transportation Board and Department will institute a temporary parking ban on Park approaching Washington St. from 7-9 AM on a trial basis.

Beacon Street Buffered Bike Lane: The Transportation Department study on the bike lane is expected soon; public comments are being solicited as well.

2018 Meeting Dates: Meeting dates were discussed but are being further reviewed.

Next meeting: Monday, November 6, Room 408 [NOTE: Date subsequently changed to Wednesday, November 1, to accommodate November 6 Transportation Board meeting.]

Final meeting for 2017: Monday, December 4, 2017, 7 PM, Town Hall Room 408