

## **Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)**

Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2018, Town Hall Room 408, 7:00 PM

Submitted by Kristin Schreiber

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

**Members absent:** Mark Lowenstein

**Public:** John Dempsey, John Harris, David Kroop, Jules Milner-Brage, Elissa Yanover, David Pantalone

### **1. January 2018 meeting minutes- approved**

### **2. Bike Parade (tentatively, Sunday, May 20)**

- John Dempsey, the organizer for the last 10 years, needs substantial help with the Parade if it is to continue, and he would like to begin to “pass the torch” of organizing. He noted that police are concerned about liability and staffing for the event. Landry’s Bicycles as well as food truck owners have already expressed interest for this year, and the parks and open space department will help as requested. (Brookline Bank and Chobee Hoy have always sponsored the event.) Unfortunately, the recreation department is not interested in taking this on.
- BAC members expressed gratitude for Mr. Dempsey’s hard work and noted that the parade is an important and well-loved community event.
- Jacob Meunier and David Kroop said that they would help get the word out that we need someone to work with John Dempsey, preferably someone who is well versed in the use of social media.
- Brian Sutherland offered to look into recruiting/maintaining involvement of the police department
- Some ideas about changing format for next year were discussed.

### **3. Capital Improvement Plan budget requests**

- Already approved projects are Centre Street (spring 2018) and Essex-Dummer intersection for FY 2019.
- Mr. Bowman will send a memo to and work with Todd Kirrane on a formal request to start planning, design and costing out projects for FY 2020 and beyond: It was agreed that Harvard and Washington Street improvements should be priorities.
- The details for these streets as listed in the Green Routes plan should be reviewed to see which parts might be done as routine maintenance and which should be included in CIP requests. Plans and costs would be reviewed by the Transportation Board.

### **4. Babcock Street- Discussion of Transportation Board decision**

- Option 5 was approved by the Transportation Board on January 22 (painted southbound bike lane; northbound sharrows with northbound lane on Naples and some pedestrian improvements).
- Mr. Bowman proposes to send a memo to the Transportation Board asking for a reconsideration of the decision, based on both process and outcome. The following points were raised and discussed after which the committee agreed that Mr. Bowman should proceed with the request:

-The option chosen was not available for BAC and public review until shortly before the Transportation Board meeting—a departure from what had been a more inclusive process throughout the almost three years that the project has been considered.

-Only options 2 and 3 (a separated 2-way cycle track) meet the standards for safety; these were the two recommended by the BAC in previous memos.

-This is the first test of the Town's new Complete Streets Policy, and Option 5 falls short in many ways by not meeting the needs for safe cycling—including for less experienced cyclists (including students going to and from Devotion School).

-Other parking options have been proposed to meet residential and commercial needs.

**5. I90-Beacon Yards- letter to Mass DOT from Transportation Board**

The letter that included substantial input from the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Public Transit Advisory Committees was sent today and is posted on the Transportation web site.

**6. Police report**

Sargent Sutherland distributed the January crash report that included 2 bicycle crashes, one of which was a cyclist rear-ended while waiting in the left turn lane to make a left from Harvard St. to Babcock St.

**2018 meeting dates:** (First Monday unless otherwise noted): Mar 5, Apr 2, May 7, Jun 4, Jul 9 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday), Aug 6, Sep 4 (Tuesday), Oct 1, Nov 7 (Wednesday), Dec 3