

Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 6, 2019, Town Hall 408, 7 PM

Members present: John Bowman, Elena Huisman, Mark Lowenstein, Jacob Meunier, Kristin Schreiber, Cynthia Snow, Len Wholey, Ashley Haire (Transportation Board liaison), Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

Others present: Devon Kelley, David Kroop, Trevor Johnson, Mitch Heineman, Andrew Moulton, Daniel Martelly, Jules Milner-Brage, Hugh Mattison, Isaac Silberberg,

Minutes: February 2019 meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

Updates

- Transportation Board: Last meeting included Baldwin School traffic; approval of traffic calming for Woodland Road; meetings also scheduled for March 11 and 18. The March 11 meeting includes bicycle-related issues: new Blue Bikes locations, feasibility study of a road diet on Hammond Street to improve safety and provided a two-way cycle track, and BAC update and Green Routes plan revision for 2019.
- The Capital Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee will have a public hearing on the DPW budget on Tuesday, March 12 at 5 PM; this will include proposed street improvements as well as bicycle accommodations.
- Police Report: Three crashes in February involved bicycles and motor vehicles; two resulted in the cyclists being transported to the hospital, both as a result of turning vehicles.
- Safe Routes to School meeting discussed having a bike rodeo at Driscoll; how the state Safe Routes coordinator can help with local projects; various ideas for children's events. The BAC was supportive of planning for something in conjunction with the May 18th Bridle Path event (Kristen, Len and Jules will work on) and/or a Brookline Day event (Kristen and Mark will work on).

Blue Bikes Expansion: Trevor Johnson of the Department of Planning and Community Development presented an overview of the Blue Bikes program as it has evolved and grown and presented proposals for locating three of four new stations; no proposal has been made for a fourth station. By unanimous vote, the BAC endorsed the proposed placement of stations (1) High Street at Cypress, (2) Washington at Griggs, (3) Marion at Harvard (option A) for an additional location near Coolidge Corner (the busiest station in Brookline). The station at the Brookline Hills MBTA station will be expanded.

Beacon St. Bridle Path Event: The subcommittee has been active in planning and outreach; a Friends of the Bridle Path group is being set up under the auspices of Greenspace Alliance and will handle funds for the event, which the Friends will co-sponsor. Cynthia and Jules met with Sgt. Mark Trahon of the Police Traffic Division to discuss and get his input on police participation that would be required for the event (now planned for the median between Carlton St. and Kent St.) Participation of bicycle and traffic officers should be feasible, and he thought that it was a good idea to have specially designated private vehicles used as a barrier between the bridle path area and the vehicle travel lanes on Beacon. (This also allows a demonstration of how the bridle

path could work while maintaining parking in the median.) Jacob has contacted MassBike, Boston Cyclists' Union, Livable Streets—all of whom are on board for participating on May 18th. He is getting in touch with Red Bones about a food truck. Landry's now requires payment of \$200-300/hour for events; Jacob thinks this is important enough to warrant the expense and offered to pay for it if need be. Elena has set up a spreadsheet for contacts with potential sponsors/participants; she also noted that interns working with Livable Streets are designing schematics/graphics about the bridle path plans that can be used as posters at the event. Livable Streets has designed a flier for the event, which is being revised; they are also helping with methods for gathering comments/feedback from participants on May 18th.

Continuing efforts: Cynthia and Jules will be in touch with Brookline Bank; Cynthia will be in touch with the Brookline Historical Society, which may offer a lecture on the history of the Olmsted plan for Beacon Street.

Bicycle Education Project: Dan Martelly and Elena have prepared an outline of an educational brochure specific to Brookline, which can be produced as a tri-fold flier that can be distributed via local merchants, libraries, and other local sites. A volunteer has offered to help with design. Todd Kirrane will check the contents of the flier with Town counsel; the hope is that the Chamber of Commerce and Coolidge Corner Merchants Association might co-sponsor as well as support distribution of the flier.

Follow-up/Open Items: There is a long list of open items on the agenda, with new information indicated in bold face. The committee discussed the proposal for a morning rush hour parking limitation on Beacon Street inbound to St. Mary's but at this point is awaiting further data/action by the Transportation Board. Mr. Moulton continues to monitor clearing of snow from bike racks; snow is still being removed from the last storm, and with the snow season (we hope) almost over, reminders and monitoring will be started again at the beginning of next winter.

Other Business: A couple of late arrivals introduced themselves. Hugh Mattison said he is interested in electric scooters, which he thinks will become much more prevalent. Isaac Silberberg introduced himself as a candidate for Select Board. Elena mentioned that several local bicycle organizations have sent letters to Lyft and Uber asking that they better educate their drivers on watching for cyclists and not blocking bike lanes.

Adjournment: 8:45