

Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 2, 2019, Town Hall 408, 7 PM

Members present: John Bowman, Elena Huisman, Mark Lowenstein, Kristin Schreiber Cynthia Snow, Len Wholey, Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

Members absent: Jacob Meunier

Others present: Jules Milner-Brage, David Kroop, Scott Englander, Jan Preheim, Bob Miller, Zoe Linde, Kevin Sullivan, Scott Ananian

Minutes: 2019 meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

Updates:

- **Transportation Board:** On September 23, the Board gave final approval for the design of the traffic signal system and intersection design for Hammond St at Woodland Road. The Board also approved having Transportation staff and consultants move forward with studying the feasibility of a road diet on Hammond St (Horace James Circle to Health St) to improve safety provide buffered cycle tracks on both sides of the street. Residents present had questions and comments on both projects but were supportive of both.
- **Safe Routes to School:** Most of the last meeting was focused on Walk and Bike to School Day, which was this morning; there was no report yet on its success. In general, SRTS seems to be picking up steam, although School Department and principals' support is needed. Parents involved would like to have measurements of walking and biking and would like to develop plans to improve safety.

Green Routes Plan: This month, Ms. Huisman developed and distributed a survey listing sections of the plan with which help is wanted. She will send it again. Over the next couple of weeks, Ms. Snow, Mr. Bowman and Ms. Huisman will make decisions about changes to the plan circulated to the committee last month, and a clean copy will be made available via Google docs with tracked changes as the BAC works on it further.

Annual Brookline Bike Counts: Ms. Snow thanked everyone who helped with this year's counts during the week of September 16th. This year's counts were conducted earlier than last year, and the weather during the counting period was much better than last year, both probably contributing to increased numbers of cyclists. Nevertheless, Mr. Bowman noted that there was still a 2% average increase in numbers from 2017 to 2019.

Follow-Up:

- **Bicycle Education Brochure:** The Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the brochure, and printing is being arranged.
- **Bridleway Event:** The event for Saturday, October 5th will take place in the Beacon Street median between Williston Road and Englewood; it will be similar to the event last May east of Coolidge Corner but will also include a "bike rodeo" area for young cyclists. Mr. Milner-Brage welcomes help with set-up at 8:30 Saturday morning.

Warrant Article 7: Mr. Miller made a brief presentation on the resolution requesting the town to monitor and repaint all pavement markings on Town streets that enhance safety for all users. He noted that the Town has a regular schedule and budget for repainting long lines for vehicles and crosswalks (although some of those are in very poor condition). There is no regular schedule or budget for repainting bicycle lanes and symbols. The resolution requests that there be adequate budget and schedule to repaint all safety lines and symbols to maintain them in good condition.

Following public questions and discussion, the BAC voted unanimously to recommend that the Transportation Board endorse Warrant Article 7 and that it support maintaining language at least as strong as written by the petitioners. Mr. Bowman will draft a memo to the Transportation Board and review it with Mr. Lowenstein.

Warrant Article 31: Mr. Englander and Mr. Milner-Brage presented the description, goals and specifics of the resolution on transportation action needed to meet Brookline's climate goals; it was developed by a working group following the well-attended citizens' Climate Summit in June. The motives for the recommendations are to address the climate emergency, its health consequences, and the inequities of their effects. In order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from transportation (approximately 50% of the total emissions in Massachusetts), shifting to electric vehicles is necessary but not sufficient. Efforts need to be made to prioritize the movement of people over single-occupancy large private vehicles. This requires improvements to transit, bicycling, and pedestrian infrastructure for safety and equity. This may be started through demonstration/pilot projects to test various approaches relatively inexpensively as has been done elsewhere. Town planning and zoning regulations should be aligned with transportation goals of reducing vehicular traffic. Finally, use of electric vehicles should be encouraged, for example, through the provision of public charging stations.

Following public questions and discussions, the BAC voted unanimously to recommend to the Transportation Board that it endorse the Warrant Article 31 as written.

Adjournment: 8:30 PM so that members could attend the Transportation Board discussion of the traffic plan in and around the Brookline High School campus.