

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

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

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

**Members absent:** Mark Lowenstein,

**Others present:** Ambar Johnson, Jules Milner-Brage, David Kroop, Matt Trivella, Any Moulton, Perry Grossman

**LivableStreets Presentation:** Ambar Johnson, a new program director at LivableStreets has a background in civil engineering, sociology and history (Georgia Tech); in previous positions, she worked on ADA and sidewalk issues as well as a bike share program. Her interests include mobility justice, including such “invisible” elements as how people feel on the streets they are traversing. She regards all transportation modes as interconnected.

Ms. Johnson then gave an overview of the LivableStreets’ Emerald Network project, touching on its contribution to mobility, health (for people and the environment), economy, and equity. Among the gaps in the network are Beacon Street and Hammond Street. The Bridleway would address the Beacon Street gap; the committee noted that work has been approved for the Hammond-Woodland intersection, and the Transportation Department has been asked to study moving forward with protected bike lanes in both directions on Hammond Street (as recommended after a LivableStreets-assisted community effort). She will check on whether the developing plans for both streets are officially part of the envisioned Emerald Network.

LivableStreets is currently upgrading its GIS and mapping capabilities. Other projects of importance to Brookline are the Park Drive-Fens connector (under Park Drive next to the Fenway T stop), which is currently delayed because of environmental concerns and the on-going Allston/I-90 Multimodal project.

**Minutes:** October 2019 meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

### **Updates:**

- **Transportation Board:** Cynthia Snow and Len Wholey attended the October 21 Transportation Board meeting. The Board received and acknowledged the memos from BAC, PAC, and PTAC on issues of interest. There was no opposition from the audience to any of the warrant articles. The articles on maintenance of pavement markings (#7), e-scooter share programs (#16) and healthy and sustainable transportation (#31) were all endorsed unanimously by the four members present (Dempsey, Lee, Moore, and Tali). Mr. Milner-Brage noted that there had been some minor changes to the text of Warrant Article 31 but that substance of the article was unchanged and had received approval from several groups.
- **Police Report:** There were five bicycle crashes called in during October; two of those generated police reports (which usually means that there was a citation and/or injury).
- **LivableStreets:** Upcoming events: 11/17 World Day of Remembrance (for victims of automobile crashes) at 2:30 at the State House. 12/10 the annual Street Talks—10 short presentations—at the Old South church at 6:30 PM.
- **Safe Routes to School:** Todd Kirrane supports gathering data as proposed at a recent SRTS meeting; it would be good to have support from the School Department.

**Meeting Dates for 2020:** Dates approved as distributed (first Wednesday of the month except January which is the second Wednesday): January 8, February 5, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2.

**Green Routes Plan:** The latest draft is available on Google Docs, and everyone is encouraged to review it and make “suggestions,” which result in tracked changes.

- Mr. Meunier distributed suggestions based on the Cambridge Bicycle Plan (currently being updated). It was agreed that definitions like those in the Cambridge plan should be incorporated in our “Road Treatments” section and that quotes from and links to Complete Streets and WA 31 (if passed by Town Meeting) should be included.
- Mr. Meunier also recommended dropping the appendix on the MassDOT study of the Harvard Street corridor through Coolidge Corner and incorporating suggestions from it in the GR plan in appropriate places.
- A document with maps and street profiles for the streets around Cypress Field and adjacent to the old and new high school buildings was prepared and distributed by Mr. Wholey and Mr. Bowman. The committee VOTED to submit the recommendations to the Transportation Board as prepared with an adjustment to Figure 7 to show that the Tappan Street lane closest to the curb would be a drop off lane rather than a travel lane. The recommendations include a two-way bike path across Cypress Field between the fields and the playground, a protected-contraflow lane on Greenough from Tappan to Davis, a protected contra-flow lane on Davis from Greenough to Cypress, a protected contraflow lane on Tappan from Cypress to Greenough, a contraflow lane on Tappan from Blake to Greenough, and a contraflow lane on Sumner from Greenough to Blake. These changes would greatly enhance safety and accessibility to the bike parking areas at all high school buildings.

**Other business:** Mr. Moulton suggested that a reminder be sent to DPW about clearing snow from priority bike racks. He agreed to prepare a memo that could be sent to Commissioner Pappastergion and Highway Director Johnson.

**Announcements:** There are two upcoming meetings on BAC recommendations for Green Street and Beacon Street outbound near St. Mary’s. Mr. Bowman, Ms. Huisman, and Mr. Meunier will attend the Green Street meeting on 11/5; Mr. Bowman, Ms. Huisman and Ms. Snow will attend the Beacon St. meeting on 11/13.

**Adjournment:** 9 PM