

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

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 1, 2020, via Zoom, 7 PM

**Members present:** John Bowman, Elena Huisman, Mark Lowenstein, Cynthia Snow, Len Wholey

**Members absent:** Jacob Meunier, Kristin Schreiber, Brian Sutherland (Police liaison), Ali Tali (Transportation Board liaison)

**Others present:** David Trevvett (PAC chair), Jan Preheim, Jules Milner-Brage, David Kroop, Todd Kirrane, Andrew Fischer, Perry Grossman

**Minutes:** The March 2020 meeting minutes as circulated were approved unanimously by roll call.

### **Updates:**

- **Transportation Board:** Ms. Huisman reported on the virtual March 16 Transportation Board meeting:
  - Heath St. contraflow lane from Tully to Hammond St. was not approved. Mr. Kroop had favored approval and noted that more attention needed to be paid to bicycle accommodations in S. Brookline.
  - Chestnut St. (Walnut-Kendall) bi-directional cycle track was approved despite some strong neighborhood opposition (in written “chat” comments, all of which were read aloud by Chairman Dempsey). Mr. Trevvett noted that 2-way cycle tracks are of concern to pedestrians.
- **Safe Routes to School:** Mr. Milner-Brage said there were no SRTS updates. He also noted that safe bicycle routes on Chestnut Street were supported by SRTS for Lincoln School. He and Mr. Wholey expressed concern about the Driscoll Building Committee plans for widening Westbourne Terrace to provide more parking and student drop-off areas, which they are concerned will increase danger for students walking or biking to school. They expressed hope that this issue can be revisited at a future date.
- **Sustainability Transportation Working Team:** Ms. Preheim and Mr. Kroop regularly attend the meetings and will keep the BAC posted.
- **DPW/Transportation Department:** Ms. Huisman read a memo from Mr. Kirrane about how the DPW and Transportation Division are continuing work during the current shut-down. At this point, scheduled street work is going forward.

**Committee Name and Scope:** Given the increased use of scooters and other micromobility modes, the question has arisen of whether the name and mandate of the BAC should be expanded to include some or all of them. The need for coexistence between bicycles and other modes of micromobility is acknowledged, but there is also the potential for conflict among modes. At present, Town Meeting is waiting for guidance from the Transportation Board which has jurisdiction regarding scooters, and Mr. Kirrane will set up a staff working group to develop draft proposals for their use that would be the subject of public Transportation Board hearings. This effort is on hold for the time being. (Scooter share programs are under the jurisdiction of the Select Board since they involve contracts with the Town.) Ms. Huisman will check with Mr. Kirrane and Mr. Dempsey to see what input they might like from the BAC and to request representation on the staff working group.

**Crash Reports:** Mr. Wholey has gathered data from the Police Department, which is keeping more data on the number and types of crashes; these may be useful for reference going forward. The department plans to include some of these data in their annual report.

**2020 BAC Priorities:** Ms. Huisman circulated slides after the last meeting showing the results of the survey of BAC members and friends. One of the top priorities is proposing pilot projects to test various possible bicycle accommodations. Among the possibilities mentioned in the survey and at the March

meeting are Beacon Bridleway, “floating” bus islands, and parking restrictions on lower Beacon Street inbound during morning commute.

A new concern is the need for safer facilities for walking, jogging, and biking that would allow maintaining adequate physical distance during the coronavirus outbreak. This was discussed, and it was agreed by a unanimous roll call vote of BAC members present that Ms. Huisman and Mr. Milner-Brage would send a memo to the Transportation Board recommending consideration of eliminating as much parking as possible in the Beacon Street median so it can be used for this purpose and as a way of piloting the use of some of the space for the Bridleway. Any such accommodations should be well publicized to make them most useful.

To develop other pilot project ideas, Mr. Lowenstein and Mr. Milner-Brage volunteered to serve on a project group. Ms. Huisman will also discuss with Mr. Meunier.

**Open Items:** The status of open items provided by Mr. Kirrane was reviewed. Of concern is the reconsideration of the contraflow lane on Davis Avenue beside Cypress Field. This has been removed from the agenda at the request of the residents until a non-virtual meeting can be held. Ms. Huisman will check on the status and time line for this project.

**Announcements:**

- Mr. Kirrane has sent out notice of the BAC open position and has received two applications to date; the closing is April 27<sup>th</sup>. Everyone should publicize this widely.
- Dr. Schreiber will have to step aside from full participation in the BAC for the foreseeable future but would like to remain on the committee for the time being.

**Adjournment:** 8:53 PM. Ms. Huisman was commended for her fine job of chairing the meeting under difficult circumstance.