

## Bicycle Advisory Committee

October 7<sup>th</sup> 2020

Committee Members In Attendance: Elena Huisman, Neal Learner, Len Wholey, Mark Lowenstien, Jacob Meunier, Emily Jacobsen

Committee Members Absent: Brian Sutherland (Police liaison), Ali Tali (Transportation Board liaison), Alicia Lai

Others in Attendance: David Trevvett, Cynthia Snow, David Kroop, Perry Grossman, Jan Preheim, John Bowman, Mitch Heineman

### Approve September Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved by unanimity except Len Wholey who abstains.

### BAC Chair Discussion + New Member Recruitment

Three members leaving:

Len Wholey (immediate), Jacob Meunier (Jan 2021), Elena Huisman (Jan 2021)

Mark L. does not want to take-up roll of chair. Jan P. expresses interest in joining committee. Mitch H. expresses interest in chair position should he be reappointed to BAC. Emily expresses interest but points out tenure could be shortened. Decision on chair to be put off until after new member interviews. Elena to contact Todd K. to have open positions listed.

### Bike Counts Results Discussion

Counts lower than last year as anticipated. Counts lower near schools especially. To be added to count next year? Scooters? Children being carried on bicycles? Explore partnership with Boston bike counts and inquiry about their methodology and technology?

Emily J. points out that complete streets mandate bicycle and pedestrian counts. John B. suggests that Todd K. will have information regarding possible loss of revenue streams. Decision by roll call for Elena and Emily to draft letter to the T-Board, unanimity except Len Wholey who abstains.

2020 Bike count to be transmitted to T-Board. Decision by roll call, unanimity except Len Wholey who abstains.

### Expanded Sidewalks: Safety & Town Survey [Mark L.]

Mark L. floats the idea of writing letter to T-Board to continue with pilot of extended sidewalks and asks what kinds of feedback should be given.

Neal L. brings up that the state of maintenance of the extended sidewalks is lacking and making them difficult to use.

David K. proposes that some streets like Pleasant St. might be better served by a shared street than by an extended sidewalk. Brings forth survey that shows residents were divided in opinions on usefulness of extended sidewalks. Wonders if more residents would support shared streets.

Elena points out that effectiveness of shared street depends on design.

David T. points out that Select Board is mainly receiving feedback in the form of complaints about the expanded sidewalks.

Mark L. points out the right hook danger in the expanded sidewalks that are parking protected, especially in Washington Square.

John B. does not think that T-Div. will permanently create parking protected lanes without buffer.

David K. points out that many jurisdictions have moved faster to make permanent many COVID extended sidewalks changes.

David T. points out that focus of extended sidewalks may shift as transmission by pedestrians is less likely, but transmission by people at restaurants more likely. Economic development committee currently exploring extending restaurant seating into winter and next year.

Elena H. brings up the idea of focusing on value of lessons learned by pilot, echoes David T. comment about shift of focus of extended sidewalks changing also to include need to other transportation methods.

Letter to be written to T-Board outlining support of continuation of extended sidewalks and possible improvements, decision by unanimity except Len Wholey who abstains. To be drafted by Elena, Mark, Jacob, Emily.

## Open items/ Other business / Updates from BAC Members

### Open Projects

Longwood Ave.

Emily J. suggests parking study of Longwood Ave in preparation for eventual further discussions on Longwood Ave. David T. suggest outreach to people who have complained about the Longwood lanes to find out the nature of their complaints.

### Transportation Board (Ali Tali)

- Ali T. not present.
- Emily J. update that Warrant Article (possibly already withdrawn) around eliminating parking minimums in residential buildings was discussed.

### LivableStreets (Jacob Meunier)

- No updates, but gives summary of [LivableStreets'](#) mandate and mission.

### Sustainable Transportation Working Team (Jacob Meunier)

- [Collins Center for Public Management Report](#) (Town's Sustainability Report) was released. Interesting reading.

## Other Business

### Crash Report

Kent and Longwood again. No violations issued for crash.

### DPW Snow Removal in Bike Lanes

Emily J. suggests contacting new DPW about possibility of snow removal in bike lanes. Committee suggests that private letter is more appropriate first try.

## Meeting Adjourned