



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes - Tri-Community Mtg.-Apr.2010

Tri-Community Bicycle Committees Meeting of April 5, 2010.  
(Approved, ABAC, 5/3/2010)

Those present were Jack Johnson, Stephen Quinn, Robert Sawyer, Terry Gleason Paolo Marinelli, Bob Hausslein, Allan Sherman, Scott Smith, Peggy Enders, Brian O'Donnell, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, John Dieckmann, Chris Lennon, George Gagliardi, Mike Beck, Joey Glushko, Laural Carpenter and Marita Hartshorn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03.

We all introduced ourselves. There was then a short discussion about the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. We also discussed the aims and overlaps of our committees with the Livable Streets organization. We concluded that we need to build coalitions with pedestrians and perhaps conservationists.

Cycling issues in the towns. Terry Gleason told us about the progress in extending the Minuteman 260606826Path 260606826 beyond its current terminus in Bedford. The rail bed extends beyond the end of the paved path and Bedford has approved \$225,000 for the 25% design of the extension of the pavement. This project will extend the path to the Concord town line. They are attempting to get this project on the state's list of scheduled construction projects. Bedford is also working on obtaining the designation of Bicycle Friendly Town from the LAB. We then spent some time discussing the differences in design between the Minuteman and Bruce Freeman trails.

Next, Peggy Enders told us that this last winter the Minuteman 260607758Path 260607758 was plowed in Lexington. They have had to raise the money for the plowing as the town is not yet paying for the service. Lexington is working on improving the safety of the intersections of the Minuteman with surface streets considering such factors such as signage and site lines. They are applying for CPA money to upgrade root guards and alleviating drainage problems. They call this bikeway preservation. Peggy also told us that Lexington has a new bicycle friendly town engineer. She feels that this will facilitate the upgrading of the bicycle friendliness of their streets. There will be a Bikes Not Bombs bicycle collection at Lexington's Town Day this year. The specifications for acceptable bikes can be found on the BNB web site. Spare parts will also be accepted.

Christopher Tonkin summarized bicycle issues in Arlington. He talked about the development of the Brigham's site beside the bike path in the center of town. ABAC is seeking to have significant input into assuring a bicycle friendly design. ABAC is working to improve the bike friendliness of the streets in Arlington by assuring appropriate striping after repaving. We were told about the installation of bike racks around town. Joey Glushko explained the problem of finding space for appropriate bicycle parking on Arlington's narrow sidewalks. The MBTA will be installing covered bike parking at the MBTA bus terminus in Arlington Heights. Christopher also explained the town bylaw requiring bike parking be a part of the design of all new developments in the town. Scott Smith summarized ABAC's efforts to bridge the gap in the Minuteman in Arlington Center. He gave a brief overview of the various plans that are being discussed. We then briefly discussed the time line for the repair of the water damage to the bikeway in Arlington Heights. We also reviewed our experience with the plowing of the bikeway during the last few winters. Now that Lexington is plowing their section of the path, we learned that the representatives from Bedford would like to get their town to plow their section of the path as well. The Bedford representatives asked us questions about the technique and timing of the plowing. The Lexington reps also chimed in with their experience. Paolo Marinelli pointed out that the State requires the municipalities to keep the path clear all year round.

Bob Hausslein from Lexington told us about Lexington's bike path cleanup efforts. He told us that they wear vests during the cleanups that advertise who they are and what they are doing.

Joey Glushko talked about how ABAC is thinking about the desirability of installing signage to identify street crossings and off ramps. We felt that uniform design of the signs along the length of the entire path would be desirable. We thought that Scenic Byways might finance the printing of the signs. Someone suggested installing kiosks to identify sights and local businesses. Terry Gleason suggested that people photograph bikeway amenities on other paths that they visit to get new

ideas about how we should outfit our path. We briefly discussed bikeway etiquette such as audible warnings when passing pedestrians or other bicycles.

We next discussed the use of the path after dark. We talked about the history of the path including the origins of the current hours of operation and whether these hours need revisiting. This led to a discussion about requirements of lighting on bicycles and light colored and/or reflective clothing on pedestrians. There was also a suggestion made to hand out reflective bands to be worn on the path after dark. Joey Glushko suggested that we form a 260606992subcommittee 260606992Ron Sto to formulate policies about these questions. Once these questions are settled we would like to update the Minuteman Bikeway Brochure.

Bike Month. We talked about possible events to celebrate Bike Week. Jack Johnson told us about the bike convoy for commuters scheduled to take place on May 29<sup>th</sup> (National Bike Commute To Work Day). We also discussed various other possible activities.

Long term planning. Terry Gleason suggested that we look at all the major crossroads in the towns and work to make them bicycle accessible to facilitate connectivity. Arlington would like to write a long term bike plan to facilitate these connections. Jack Johnson told us about plans to connect new rail trails to the Minuteman at Alewife.

There was also a discussion about safety at path-street intersections. Scott Smith told us that the crash statistics in Arlington do not support the perceived danger at these crossings. Not everyone agreed with that supposition. This topic was discussed at length. Joey Glushko suggested that we put together an article for the local newspapers about responsible cycling and its benefits. In addition she would like to have us hand out safety brochures on the path this summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 pm

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller