



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## 03/19/2014 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of March 19, 2014

Board members attending were Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Doug Greenfield, Christopher Tonkin and Scott Smith. Phil Goff was absent. Joey Glushko and Andrew McDonald were also present.

\*Approval of the minutes of the January meeting. The minutes of the February meeting were approved, as amended, by unanimous vote.

Report on Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) activities. Scott updated us on the redesign of the bikeway crossing at Mill St. The problem with the beacon is that there is insufficient power being supplied from the batteries. The DPW has gotten an estimate for an upgrade to the beacon's electrical system. Also, the Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB) has asked for some sort of modification to this bikeway crossing to slow down cyclists at the intersection. TAC did not approve the working group's initial design for a chicane on the western approach to Mill St. Wayne Chouinard of the DPW proposed another design that is currently being used in Northampton, MA. We looked at the design and made some modifications that included directional arrows and a "stop ahead" sign. Wayne subsequently modified the design again, deleting the divider between lanes because he feels that there is insufficient room for the full Northampton design. The working group felt from the beginning that the simpler design was the best but the ARB had suggested for a more elaborate solution.

\*Christopher moved that we endorse our modification of the simplified Northampton design. The motion passed unanimously.

Report on the ABAC Winter Social. Andrew told us that he enjoyed the event and that it encouraged him to attend this meeting. All the rest of us present also thought it went well. We started to think about speakers for next year. Jack suggested someone he knows who has written an early history of bicycling in Boston. Scott added that, next year, there will be a number of local events that will be worth hearing about. Jack also suggested some sort of panel discussion on a topic such as bicycle/pedestrian interactions. We were all really enthusiastic about his idea.

Friends group for the Minuteman Bikeway. Joey told us that she contacted Joe Connelly, Arlington's Director of Recreation, to ask if the new Friends Group could be supported with the existing Friends of Arlington Parks. They then realized that the Bikeway is not under the jurisdiction of Parks and Recreation but under the Town Manager's office and therefore not eligible to be part of the Friends of Parks. Joey will look into the possibility that the Town Manager's office might be persuaded to sponsor the Bikeway Friends Group.

BIKE-Arlington Tour. Joey suggested that this year's tour be in the eastern part of town, starting in Arlington Center behind the Jefferson-Cutter House with a stop at the new Thompson School. Scott suggested that he would like to show off the new Belmont Bikeway. To that end, we discussed the conditions on Blanchard Rd. and established a working group to map out a route. The working group consists of Jack, Scott and Christopher. Joey will look into a police escort. The working group will meet on April 13 to work on the map for this year's tour.

Bike-pedestrian conflicts. Rachael Stark from Walking in Arlington was unable to attend this meeting to discuss this topic. Jack told us that he recently attended several sessions on bike/pedestrian interactions at the National Bike Summit. He gave us a summary of his current thinking on the topic. His point of view is that the solution is basically a matter of education and enforcement. We will discuss this topic further next month with Rachael in attendance.

EcoFest, 2014 participation? Joey reported that Bikes Not Bombs will probably not be able to attend the EcoFest because they are making a pick-up in early May at the DPW yard. Stephan said that he felt the theme this year was not really applicable to our mission. We decided not to have a table this year.

Tri-Community bicycle committee meeting. We discussed whether there should be a tri-community meeting on June 7. Topics that we would like discuss include snow and ice removal, repaving, striping and signage. Joey told us that Lexington has volunteered to host this meeting. We will revisit this topic at our next meeting.

Bikeway User Counts. The State has proposed that the Spring counts be taken this year on Tuesday, May 6th. We would like to add Saturday, May 10th so that the data is consistent with previous counts, which were taken on both a Tuesday and a Saturday. Joey is looking for volunteers to do the counts.

MAPC Bike Rack Purchase Program. This program has restarted. The new program is arranging for discounts on the purchase of racks but not reimbursing the cost. Joey approached the Arlington Director of Economic Development to see if any businesses or land owners are interested in purchasing racks. Unlike the previous grants, this program allows racks to be installed on private property. Joey also contacted the DPW to see if they are willing to do the installations.

Donation of children's bike helmets. We discussed whether to give away helmets at our Town Day booth. There were some objections because it is not the appropriate venue to make sure that the helmets will be fitted properly or even used. Christopher thought that we should give out the helmets in hopes that they will be properly used but we can not be responsible for their ultimate use. We decided to proceed and order the helmets.

Other. Joey told us that she received an email from Ken Carlson regarding a week-long children's program about bicycles, and he would like us to participate. Jack recommended we take no action on this topic at this time.

\*The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.

\*indicates that a vote of the ABAC Board was taken.  
Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.