



## **Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes**

Date: August 15, 2018

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Town Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Christopher Tonkin (chair); Doug Greenfield, Jack Johnson, Adam Macneil, Scott Smith

Other Attendees: TJ Kelly (APD/COBWEB Officer), Jillian DeMair, Clif Forstal, Rod Holland, Muris Kobaslija, Matt Larrabee, Doug Mayo-Wells

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***Doug Mayo-Wells taking minutes, will send to Erin Zwirko, coordinating interim following departure of Nat Strosberg and pending new hire of Transportation Coordinator to be announced***

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### **1. Approval of previous minutes**

Deferred pending announcement of new Transportation Coordinator

### **2. COBWEB (Cops on Bicycles With Education for Bicyclists)**

No agenda items

Discussed bike detection at Swan Place - several reports of instances where it has not worked.

### **3. Bus lanes on Massachusetts Ave**

Meeting conflicts with ABAC, Philip Goff attending on ABAC's behalf and will report next month

Merchants near Lake St intersection are concerned

### **4. Minuteman Bikeway 25th Anniversary Celebration**

Saturday September 29th

website: <https://www.bikeway25.org/>

Rain date September 30th (to be confirmed)

Will feature musicians at 3 or 4 locations, by Trader Joes, Linwood Circle, Magnolia field, possibly at Aeronaut beer garden. No public address system to be provided by the town.

Haikus will be stenciled on bikeway with blue chalk paint, expected to last between 2wks-2mos; haiku workshop Saturday Aug 18 at Uncle Sam statue, some will be printed in Arlington Advocate

Advocate

Lexington will also have haikus, music, displays

Bedford may participate in haiku

Haiku submission website <http://www.arlingtonpublicart.org/submit-a-haiku> (closes 25 August)

ABAC will have a stand to sell anniversary t-shirts at the beer garden; volunteer staffing will be solicited at September meeting

Working to coordinate letters to invite local government guests

Information to be posted on website, Arlington Advocate and Facebook

### **5. TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) update**

Complaints about detection at Swan Place. Tried to reproduce, with inconsistent results, observed one long wait time, but mostly works fine. Complaints to DPW should include precise day and time to facilitate analysis.

Confirming intended function: optical sensor (no detection loop on the ground), longest designed wait time is in evening rush hour but should not exceed two minutes; off peak should be faster.

Issues with bike detection also reported at Linwood street, DPW investigating; anecdotal reports of proper function in AM rush hour on the Foster street side of the intersection.

TAC met last week, discussed safety improvements at Water street, recommending warning sign.

TAC preparing for town day, need to coordinate booth content between ABAC and TAC.  
TAC discussing rush hour "Do Not Enter" signage at Venner Rd/Pleasant St; cyclist was pulled over for violating signage and citizen has proposed that bikes should be explicitly exempted by the signage. Some neighboring communities do this. Inconsistent enforcement has been observed. Unresolved question: does a Town have legal authority to exempt bicyclists from regulations such as "Do Not Enter" signs?

## **6. Bikeshare update**

Town leadership reportedly pleased with launch, ridership has been good, although some post-launch drop-off reported. Lime addressed labor shortfall to improve balancing/relocating bikes. Selectmen voted to approve increasing Lime's allotment from 150 to 300 bikes, since they are now the sole approved vendor.

Some vandalism observed, e.g., concealing bikes in bushes. Some diffusion of bikes into Lexington reported, e.g., at the Zagster station in Lexington Center).

Jennifer Raitt (Planning and Community Development director) reports that town judges the bikeshare program to be a success.

Current understanding is that Lime bikes are allowed at Alewife station (despite Cambridge exclusive deal with Motivate/Bluebikes) because Alewife is state property.

Lime reportedly negotiating with Cambridge on scooters.

## **7. Speed limit on bikeway**

Likely topic for next Tri-town (Arlington, Lexington, Bedford) meeting - desirable to coordinate approach to speed on bikeway so expectations on cyclists are consistent (even if actual speed limit varies by trail conditions).

Complaints about e-bikes operating at excessive speeds, especially on Lexington stretch of Minuteman

TAC perspective - need to measure speeds riders are actually traveling at to make informed decisions, but difficult: radar gun requires person-hours, MAPC counters make it difficult to distinguish pedestrian vs. bike traffic. Speed trailer might be possibility. Likely action item for incoming Arlington transportation coordinator (as mentioned above, expected to be announced in September).

Also difficult to get data on crashes that do not involve motor vehicles, since reporting is very focused on motorist/cyclist crashes, and all near-miss data is intrinsically anecdotal.

Hard to cite riders for operating too fast - riders may not know their speed.

Anecdotal evidence: NYC greenway speed of 12mph is problematic; Stevens Creek (Bay Area California) speed of 15mph appears to work well (used to establish liability; not actively enforced). Speed limit at least lets riders know that there is an expectation that some speeds are excessive.

Arlington default speed limit of 25mph for motor vehicle traffic might be construed to apply to bicycles.

## **8. Renewal of League of American Bicyclists Bike Friendly Community Award**

Town manager instred in pursuing upgrade to "silver" status - community has added bike share, more bike lanes, etc.

Have been "bronze" for past 2 cycles, expired, new application required. Philip Goff is working on it, but may need help. (Elizabeth Shea has also expressed interest; copies of previous application should be available for reference.)

Award cycle is every 6 months, will go for spring cycle, will solicit volunteers for working group to assist Phil at upcoming meeting.

### **9. Application for vacant committee position**

Elizabeth Shea resigning due to other commitments

Vacancy posted - some applications received but deadline to be extended beyond 16 August

Will interview applicants next month

### **10. Bikeway Map reprinting**

Old bikeway map out of date due to routing changes

Original printing was funded by local businesses

Possible for Massbike to get involved?

### **11. New Bikeway signage**

Lexington has paid for/installed new signage

Bedford has not committed to install signs matching Lexington's

Arlington sought CPA funding, but not available

Pursuing strategies to defray expense of signage in Arlington, e.g., local business donation

### **12. Repairs at bridge over Alewife Brook**

Previous assessment was planking bad, but not bad enough to warrant repair; deterioration has continued.

Remains of bollards (with exposed up-pointing bolts) on either side of bridge are problematic

Asphalt "hump" near bridge has also caused at least one solo bike accident

### **13. Safety concerns at bikeway crossing near Trader Joe's**

Pedestrian risk, injury reported

Need to set up meeting with Mike Rademacher (DPW)

### **14. September Bike counts for MAPC**

Want one weekday, one weekend day with normal (non-holiday) traffic volumes expected

Will count Saturday Sep 8, Tuesday Sep 11

Desirable to get more data, ideally permanent counter, or at least pilot count somewhere other than Swan place: Trader Joe's, Water Street to better understand bike traffic (particularly trail use vs. Mass ave use).

### **15. Facebook page (and general social media) update**

Observing balanced mix of complaints about/compliments on Lime bikes

Otherwise quiet

Will investigate getting pageview stats

### **16. Forming "Friends of Bikeway" citizen advocacy group**

Lexington has one; funds snow removal

Would not be town body, would file 501(c)(3) and be able to solicit/spend funds  
ABAC charter is specifically bicycle focused; "Friends of Bikeway" would advocate for all trail users

Collected names at Ecofest, will collect additional names at Town Day

### **17. ABAC table at pop-up beer garden**

Booth from 12-4pm, distribute literature etc, Christopher Tonkin, Doug Greenfield, Muris Kobaslija, Matt Larrabee volunteered

### **18. Town-day booth**

Sat Sep 15 - no rain date

Setup from 8am-10pm, will solicit volunteers to setup staff booth by email

Will distribute child helmets, literature, sell anniversary t-shirts etc.

TAC will show crash data, ABAC will highlight bikeshare

### **19. Winter social**

Has been hosted at Common Ground, but Common Ground charges substantial fee. Discussed possibility of hosting at Gibbs School or Elks lodge but agreed that amenities at Common Ground are desirable.

May target early March to avoid winter weather problems.

Need to identify an engaging available speaker, topic/focus - possibly update on Bruce Freeman rail trail progress, Northern Strand Community (Bike to the Sea) trail progress, or other neighboring community initiatives. Also maybe MAPC or state-level presentation (update on new Interagency Trails Team)?

### **20. Other matters**

Problems reported using pump at Magnolia field - damage to Presta valve tubes - unclear who should fix.