



## Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: December 18th, 2019

Time: 7:15 PM – 9:15 PM

Location: 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Town Hall Annex, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Executive Committee; Christopher Tonkin (chair), Scott Smith, Jack Johnson, Adam MacNeil, Muris Kobaslija, Daniel Amstutz, Stefan Miller,

Arlington Police Department: not in attendance

At Large: Rod Holland, David Creedon

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### 1. Review/Approval of November Minutes

Corrections touched on: bike lane uprising

- **Motion** to approve as amended
- **Motion** carried, with no opposition

### 2. Report from COBWEB officer.

- No COBWEB office in attendance

### 3. TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) report.

- Price for the traffic signal at Lake Street and the Minuteman Bikeway was estimated at \$700k; bid price came a little higher than the budget but the Town is committed to constructing it by summer 2020.
- Discussed issues with snow removal in area east of underpass near Alewife. Removal appears worse than prior years.
- **Action:** will contact DPW to evaluate having a member attend on a regular basis.

### 4. Arlington High School rebuild:

- Detail design was completed and was \$29m over budget. \$5m was reduced, additional review is in process to find the savings. It was reported the connection to the bike path could potentially be removed from the design.
- **Action:** proposal to write a letter to the Arlington High School Building Project recommending the connection to the bike path be prioritized. Main points were discussed – supporting health and safety of the students; etc.. Jack will draft a letter for review & Christopher will send to the High School Building Committee.
- **Motion** to draft the letter, covering major points discussed
- **Motion** carried, with no opposition

### 5. Sustainable Transportation Plan:

- Received 4 proposal for consulting services to help develop the plan
- A committee reviewed and scored the proposals. Scores were close and interview were conducted. The firm Nelson/Nygaard was selected to work on developing the plan
- First meeting with be in mid-January

## 6. Bikeway signage: working group report.

- Question raised if ABAC should develop a budget proposal to implement signage the town council. Discussion included:
  - The inventory signs to be added and removed; mile makers, wayfinding on the path, wayfinding on the street, trail signs, cross walks, etc.
  - Plan to adopt Lexington design, with a slight increase in font size
  - There are safety benefits of the signage in the event of an emergency,
  - making the path more visitor / tourist friendly. Potential to coordinate with the Tourism Committee to add emphasis
  - more information is needed on where funding would be secured and if it would be a capital item or an operating expense.
  - The overall project could be prioritized and sequenced to facilitate implementation over time.

## 7. Application for CPA funds to study the Bikeway.

- The proposal was submitted to the CPA Committee.
- There were 7 letters of support; including ABAC, TAC, ACAC, the Town of Bedford, Mystic River Watershed Association, Walking in Arlington, and the Conservation Commission

## 8. Warrant Article for the removal or changing of the Bikeway hours.

- Chris attended a precinct meeting; most attendees were not aware there were hours of usage.
- Neither Lexington nor Bedford have curfew hours posted, few people are aware of the hours, not physically posted on the path.
- Captain Curran responded with a desire to meet in person. He also raised a concern about safety of path users outside the current curfew hours. Discuss a potential response:
  - There is no alternative between Alewife and Varnum St.
  - Bike path in winter is often better cleared than side walks and are safer for dog walkers
  - Suggest creating target times for requiring lights be in use.
  - **Action:** Adam will draft a talking points document.
  - **Agreed:** a few members will join Adam for the meeting. (Daniel, Chris, Rod)

## 9. Bike share update

- Lime contract ends in May and there is some question if Lime will renew with the MAPC, due to lower than desired usage.
- Lime bikes have been removed for the winter, next update from Lime will come in March when bikes would return for the season
- Blue Bike is a potential provider if Lime exits. There is a minimum of 5 docks required.
- Lyft (the Bluebikes operator) is exploring a hybrid dock / dock-less model, but this is still around 24 months in the future.

## 10. Arlington bike-parking guide any updates.

- Was completed by the Department of Planning & Community Development.
- It was reported as a news item advertised before Thanksgiving.

- Discussion included that some funding was requested for additional bike parking, This may be included in the budget for town fiscal year 2021.

#### 11. Partnering with Arlington Community Education for a talk.

- ABAC agree to co-sponsor the event.
- A date has been identified and will be announced.

#### 12. Doug G's interactive map. Linking to Town's website

- Agreed this is a feasible to establish, some modification to the format might be required.
- **Action:** Chris to discuss next steps with Doug.

#### 13. ABAC Retreat part 2: setting a date and booking a room

- **Agreed:** Date for March 7<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 12:00, followed by Lunch.
- Detail agenda to be developed and discussed in next two meetings.
- Parts of the senior center will not be available due to construction. Daniel Amstutz can help facilitate a meeting room elsewhere in the Senior Center or in another building.

#### 14. Safety video.

- No update for this month, keep as an active item.

#### 15. Annual Winter Social: venue and topic.

- Discussed potential topics that Daniel can either lead or moderate.
  - Proposed topic: Family Cycling & Sustainable Transportation (how do families in all stages of life actively cycle)
  - **Action:** Daniel and Muris will work on a format and potential panel members and a date.
- Chris reported on attending the Lexington winter social. Leadership of the Lexington Bicycle Advisory Committee is changing, with potentially a new direction under the new leadership.

#### 16. Any other business.

- Nothing from Facebook
- Suggested topic for a future Fall Social to overview winter cycling, potentially Peter White as a speaker
- Fudge was provided and well received

#### 17. Next ABAC meetings: Next Years' meetings:

- January 15; February 19; March 18; April 15; May 20; June 17; July 15; August 19; September 16; October 21; November 18; December 16
- **Note: The April 15<sup>th</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, & December 16<sup>th</sup> will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room of the Town Hall Annex.**
- **Motion** to adjourn was made
- **Motion** carried, with no opposition