



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes

Date: October 20, 2021

Time: 7:15PM

Location: Via Zoom conference

Attendees:

Executive committee: Christopher Tonkin (chair), Jack Johnson, Adam MacNeill (treasurer), Doug Greenfield, Scott Smith (TAC liaison)

Town of Arlington: Daniel Amstutz (Sr Transportation Planner)

Members of the public: Petru Sofio (Resident), Stephan Miller (Resident and committee member emeritus), Linda Epstein (Resident), Rod Holland (Resident)

1. Greetings and Introductions, ground rules for online meetings.

Christopher Tonkin advised that the meeting is held remotely related to COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency. The meeting is being recorded for the purposes of verifying the minutes and the recording will be deleted after the minutes are approved. Tonkin confirmed the committee members and others in attendance for the meeting.

See:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/updated-guidance-on-holding-meetings-pursuant-to-the-act-extending-certain-covid-19-measures>

2. Approval of the outstanding minutes for previous meetings.

No minutes due to absence of Doug Mayo-Wells.

3. Report from COBWEB Officer.

Neil Simard – nothing to report.

4. TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) report.

Scott Smith - only important thing for bicycles discussed was the private way section of Washington Street between Summer St and the bikeway. There is talk of making it one way for cars but it is an important access point and needs to be kept two way for bicycles.

5. Reappointments to the Select Board.

We may need a new chair in the near future as Christopher Tonkin is retiring soon and may not be as available. He is happy to stay on for another year. Jack is happy to be reappointed but not be chairman. Scott - same situation. Adam would like to be reappointed but no additional roles. Doug G may step down if his appt is up. Daniel - is there any benefit to adding committee members? May need to recruit new members and look at replacing Christopher Tonkin.

6. Future meetings to be a hybrid model and not all on line?

A remote meeting committee was set up by the town to investigate this. Meeting rooms are not set up for hybrid. Virtual meetings will still be held until at least April, 2022. What happens after that is what the committee is looking at. Hybrid meetings are not looked favorably on but Jack and Doug suggested alternating in person and virtual meetings.

7. Tour of Arlington for 2021 transformed into a virtual event.

Jack, Petru, Scott, Christopher and Doug Mayo-Wells met to discuss logistics. Original idea was for various people stationed at different points but after meeting we are looking at setting a few themed self-guided tours. Doug Mayo-Wells will work on something for the future. The tours can be up on the web site. We may be able to do an in person tour by Spring.

8. Latest on the Mass. Ave./Appleton Intersection, Arlington's first protected bike lane.

Board voted to approve plan - a protected (by flex posts) bike lane was added at last minute. Compromise between business wants and bike/ped wants. Striping lines added. Will be a town notice that the work will begin Sunday night. Temp. needs to be above 45 degrees.

9. November Tri-Town Meeting.

Tentatively Wed. Nov 3rd 7PM - conflicts w/ Bikeway planning meeting. Bedford's turn to host. We have not heard from them. We can think about agenda items. We can talk about Appleton, Bikeway planning, automatic bike counters - compare notes with the ones in other towns. Lake St signal. Tree roots. Whether we should expand tri-town to other adjacent towns was raised. Jack said maybe save expanded meeting for when we can do in person.

10. Lake Street and Mystic traffic lights, quick update.

Lake Street detector now finally working with the "wait for green" sign. Far side signals have been installed at Mystic/Pleasant intersection.

11. General updates from Daniel:

- a. Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project: Kickoff and promotion of survey and public meeting.

Survey is now live. Public meeting November 3rd at 7:00 PM. Kittelson & Assoc. did some intercept surveys today (10/20). Need ABAC help putting up flyers and conduct survey along bikeway. Hoping for about 1000 responses.

- b. Mystic River to Bikeway Feasibility Study.

Will contract with Toole Design Group for feasibility study. Project needs to finish by June. Review alternative route alignments, rotaries. Public outreach may occur in December.

- c. Bicycle parking update.

New racks are being ordered for a few locations. Ottoson, Hill's Hill, Ed Burns Arena, Buzzell. Discussions about bike parking in Heights. Sidewalk space is limited.

- d. Regular updates on Bluebikes and Eco Counter/Bikeway data.

Bikeway traffic trending consistently. Around 40,000 trips/month 478K total YTD.

Bluebikes - gone past 10,000 trips. Greatest number of trips near bikeway locations.

- e. Bluebikes Stations Winter Storage schedule and Other Bikeshare News.

Railroad lot and Linwood stations may be relocated by end of month.

- f. General Updates from the Planning Department and Items of Interest.

Kelly Lynema named Assistant DCPD Director. Still looking to fill a few other positions. Bike Drive at Recycling Center this weekend.

12. Tales from the Bikeway, matters arising from the Bikeway e.g. encroachment and center line markings.

Striping has faded. Christopher will put in a work request. We might want to give DPW some direction on where to stripe. Petru suggested that we fix the Swan Place signal - wait times are bad.

13. Any Other Business.

Christopher mentioned the Cambridge competition to show people biking to local businesses - can we try this here? Protected bike lanes are expected to be installed next week in North Cambridge.

Daniel - Somerville Bike Comm is looking for advocates on traffic calming on Alewife Brook Pkwy. Looking at a road diet at Powderhouse Blvd/North St/ Rt 16. He will send info).

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.