

Minutes of the Bedford Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

BBAC Members present:

Mark Bailey Samantha Baron David Enos
Craig Jackson Garth McCavana Peter Weichman

BBAC Members absent:

None

This is an online/virtual meeting, recorded through Zoom. A quorum was present and the meeting came to order at 7:30 pm, Mark Bailey presiding. Also present were Todd Crowey (Planning Board liaison) and Ed Pierce (Select Board liaison), and approximately 20 public attendees.

Public Comments: Alison O’Connell expressed her interest in gaining as much information and clarification on bike issues as possible. Ellen Quackenbush and Bija Satterlee from Concord reported that Article 46, which would have funded an initial study of a further extension of the Minuteman Bikeway reformatory branch through to Concord center, was voted down at the Town Meeting on Monday. There is much sentiment against a paved path in support of maintaining a natural state as well as protecting endangered turtle species. They are both avid cyclists and are very interested in finding some other route to connect Bedford and Concord.

Seeing no further public comments at this time, **a motion was made** to close the public comment period. **The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

A motion was made to approve the April 2022 BAC minutes. **The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Liaison reports: There are no significant updates on the Minuteman extension issue. The Select Board is likely to discuss it at a later date.

Mark and Samantha emphasized the need to engage with other groups with overlapping interests and projects, such as Mothers out Front (with focus on climate change mitigation, <https://www.mothersoutfront.org/>). It is very difficult to gauge the true Town citizen support for the bikeway extension, given the limited number of Town Meeting attendees. Garth urged promoting a more positive image of cyclists, countering the inaccurate characterization as dangerous speeders. Peter pointed out that greater forewarning and advanced knowledge of the types of negative comments that would be presented at the Town Meeting would have allowed BAC to request time for a proper presentation presenting a more accurate picture. This should be pursued if the issue is brought forward again. Mark emphasized BAC eagerness to engagement with Concord in any official capacity supporting alternative cycling routes.

Bikeway safety: There was further discussion of ways to enhance user courtesy with regard to speed and passing, especially the issue of E-bikes. Consistency of rules and experience along the length of the route needs to be maintained. A volunteer was sought to lead engagement with the Lexington group that had been designing “fun signs” that could also be placed along the Bedford section. Garth agreed to take this on.

Vision Zero (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vision_Zero) is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe mobility for all. First implemented in Sweden in 1997, and now across Europe, it is being adopted in U.S. cities, including Cambridge. Mark invited volunteers to help him put together an initial feasibility proposal for its adoption in Bedford, to be discussed at the next BAC

meeting. Peter agreed to help.

Partnerships: Mark will be meeting soon with Mothers in Front to initiate closer BAC contact with them.

Sadly, the SRTS ride to Lane School today was essentially rained out. The May 5 bike rodeo is unfortunately canceled due to Ron Ackerman coming down with COVID. (A recent crowded Lane School ice cream social may have been a superspreader event!) Regular Friday afternoon Lane-to-Bedford Farms Ice Cream bike rides will be starting up again soon.

Dave reported that May 20th is the Ride to Boston, starting from Concord at 6 am, and May 21st is the City of Cambridge group ride. Craig reported that he and Terry Gleason will be organizing coordinated bike counts at South Road and near the Middle School.

At 8:45 pm **a motion was made** to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was seconded and subsequently passed unanimously.**

—*Minutes submitted by Secretary/Clerk Peter Weichman*