

# Minutes of the Bedford Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

## Wednesday, August 3, 2022

### **BBAC Members present:**

Mark Bailey    Samantha Baron    Richard Baughman  
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 7:35 pm, Mark Bailey presiding. Also present were Tim Wilson representing “Tour de Cure” and approximately 11 public participants including Ed Pierce (Select Board) and Todd Crowley (Planning Board).

*Public Comments:* Public comments were invited. Nick Howard introduced himself while walking, promising to more solidly attend future meetings. There were no further public comments.

*“Tour de Cure” Diabetes Benefit Ride:* Tim Wilson described the “Tour de Cure” ride which he is helping to organize, taking place August 21. There will be 15, 30, 62, 100 mile loops all starting and ending in Lexington and lying west of Route 3, including a short portion along the bikeway passing through Bedford’s Depot Park. They have been coordinating with Bedford PD to make sure no disruption of regular bikeway users occurs. Participants, of which there are 370 so far, pay a \$10 entry fee and must raise at least \$250. There is a \$500K fund raising goal, of which \$315K has been raised so far. Tim is seeking volunteers to help monitor the riders. There will be support vehicles available in case of emergencies. Robin Steele suggested contacting BHS for student volunteers.

**A motion was made to approve the June 2022 BAC minutes** subject to some minor spelling corrections. **The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

*Liaison Reports:* Todd Crowley reported that the two-family housing zoning change proposal will be put off until the spring 2023 Town Meeting in order to avoid adding additional “controversial” issues to the fall 2022 meeting when the Minuteman extension will be reconsidered.

*Minuteman Bikeway Safety:* Garth shared his suggested adjustments to the Lexington “Burma Shave” signs for consideration for Bedford. Deploying them requires Select Board approval. The Secretary was requested to search past minutes for any motions passed in support of uniform sign design across the three Towns.

*Safe Routes to School:* Friday rides to and from Lane School are planned to be restarted in September. Volunteers were requested and received to help out.

*Minuteman Extension Next Steps:* A new website will be up and running soon. It will include a FAQ page. There will be two community forums: September 29 at 7:00 pm and October 17 at 5:00 pm. The Town Meeting itself will take place November 14. A solid supporting presentation will be put together with input from BAC. There was a long discussion of the various issues that will need to be addressed.

The concerns of the Bedford Children’s Center director are extremely important given the number of parents daily dropping off children there. The construction of the tunnel under Route 62 could strongly impact access to her drop-off and parking area. Someone official needs to reassure her that the impacts will temporary and mitigated to the degree possible. Craig will contact DPW regarding this and other communication issues.

The 100% Design details the plans for minimal necessary tree removal (none of which should be older growth predating the operation of railway itself), its mitigation in support of quick canopy regrowth, and other landscaping plans. There are publicly available studies that will be shared, supporting the significant net environmental advantage of cycling expansion relative to construction impacts. There are a number of current users of the path who enjoy its present undeveloped state and would prefer not see expanded usage. BAC members were urged to talk to their friends and neighbors, arguing for the net benefit of the project.

At 9:00 pm **a motion was made** to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was seconded and subsequently passed unanimously.**

*—Minutes submitted by Secretary/Clerk Peter Weichman*