

Minutes of the Bedford Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

BBAC Members present:

Mark Bailey Samantha Baron Craig Jackson
Garth McCavana Peter Weichman

BBAC Members absent:

Richard Baughman

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 was Aaron Bourret, soon to be confirmed as a new BAC member, and Brian O'Donnell as a public participant was (Previous BAC member).

Aaron introduced himself as Bedford resident since 2014. He is an avid cyclist, and formerly bike-commuted between Belmont and Cambridge. He is especially interested in ways to improve road interactions between cyclists and drivers.

Public Comments: Public comments were invited. None were forthcoming. **A motion was made to close the public comment period. The motion was seconded and subsequently passed unanimously.**

Minutes approval: **A motion was made to accept the September 14 BAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and subsequently passed unanimously.** The October 17 Minuteman extension public forum will now actually be held on Zoom rather than in person, as reported in the minutes.

Safe Routes to School: The bike-to-Lane-school event today had about 20 participants.

Bike safety: There were two bike crashes in September, one on 9/17 at the bike path crossing of Route 62/Concord Road. Craig will seek further details from the police report. There was a general discussion of bike safety at the Bedford Minuteman bikeway crossings. The Wiggins crossing most problematical because the good lines of sight cause bikers to sometimes cross with insufficient slowdown. Cars, on the other hand, have less warning.

Three sets of “Burma-shave” signs will be purchased and installed along the Bedford section of the bikeway. The will be removed at the first signs of winter snowfall.

Minuteman extension next steps: The first public forum was held on September 9. The opportunity for public engagement was a great improvement over the ongoing social media exchanges. The extension opponents were strongly represented and vocal, but the meeting went well. Emily and Shawn did a good job.

Brian raised his hand to express concern that Select Board will not be the best Town Meeting presenters on this issue—there appears to be some lack of public trust. He urged that BAC and TAC take the lead instead. He sees the vote going against the project again unless the presentation changes dramatically. Mark reported that the choice of presenters is indeed under discussion. A long discussion followed with various ideas presented. The bikeway extension should also be advertised as a long-lacking sidewalk extension into west Bedford. A council-on-aging representative could present on the true advantages to seniors and persons with disabilities. Families with young children might be highlighted as supporting future bike-commute to school opportunities. More generally, a panel of advocates might be organized to each give a short, sharp presentation in their area of expertise—this idea probably drew the strongest support. Mark reported that the planned public microphone speakers will be organized to get in line early. Obviously, get-out-the-vote will be most critical.

Liaison Reports: All liaisons this month had competing obligations.

BAC Annual Report: Mark submitted the BAC annual report at the end of September. Unfortunately there was not time to share it for comments in advance.

New Business: No new business to report.

Adjournment: At 8:55 pm a **motion was made** to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was seconded and subsequently passed unanimously.** The next meeting will be joint with TAC on November 9.

—*Minutes submitted by Secretary/Clerk Peter Weichman*