

# Minutes of the Bedford Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

## Wednesday, February 16, 2022

### **BBAC Members present:**

Samantha Baron   David Enos   Craig Jackson  
Garth McCavana   Peter Weichman

### **BBAC Members absent:**

Mark Bailey

This is a joint TAC and BAC online/virtual meeting, recorded through Zoom. A quorum was present for both committees, and the meeting came to order at 7:05 pm. Secretary Peter Weichman presided over the BAC meeting.

Also present were Dawn Lefrance-Linden, Peter Bernhardt, Chris Gittens, Sandra Hackman, Scot Shaw (all TAC), Ed Pierce (BAC Select Board liaison), Jeanette Rebecchi (DPW), and Charley Ticotsky (Special Assistant to the Town Manager). Public attendees included Dan Churella.

*DPW Report:* Jeanette that the Minuteman extension project is now proceeding very actively. As part of the public/private land ownership investigation it was discovered that there were 100+ year old lapsed easements related to the former railroad track. The Town wants to ensure a 22 foot wide strip around the bike path, and this now requires Town purchase of 42 adjacent parcels of private land (likely a surprise to most owners). The money will come from a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) fund, and eminent domain will be instigated if required. This budget will need to be approved at the March 28 Town Meeting. It would probably be useful to have a joint TAC-BAC letter of support published in the Bedford Citizen a couple of weeks prior, and a representative from each Committee should similarly speak at the Town Meeting. Handing out a flyer in conjunction with the upcoming Town election was also suggested.

Jeanette reported on various other planned and ongoing road and sidewalk projects. Craig raised the issue of large potholes that have formed on South Road that DPW should take care of. MassDOT has some extra funds that will be spent on some minor improvements to the intersection of Old Burlington Road and Route 62 which would also extend pedestrian and bicycle accommodation. A hired consultant is proceeding with a Great Road traffic calming study.

*Landlocked Forest access:* Peter Weichman raised the issue of access to the Landlocked Forest from Robinson Road. Recent preparations for the next new home construction has served to effectively eliminate the primary access route. An official BAC letter was sent to Chris Laskey from Bedford Code Enforcement last September, urging restoration and improvement of the access through use of existing nearby easements. There has been no response. Jeanette promised to connect BAC with Kristin Dowdy from the Trails Committee.

*DPW-BAC long-term relationship:* Craig Jackson initiated a discussion of what BAC can do to better interact and help DPW with bike-related issues. Jeanette was very supportive, but had no specific recommendations other than maintaining open channels of communication.

*Tree removal issues:* Dan Churella was admitted to the discussion in order to highlight an upcoming tree hearing. Several dozen trees need to be removed for the various sidewalk projects, a few of which are very old and large. He urged finding ways to preserve them.

*Rapid Recovery Plan funding:* Charlie reported that a hired consultant has submitted a report with a list of ideas for benefiting local businesses in connection with Minuteman Bikeway users. A \$150K budget

is available, and a coordinated project is tri-town is being developed.

*Planning Board priorities:* Chris Gittens reported that the Planning Board has an April–May time frame for collecting new priority suggestions. TAC will discuss this in detail at a later meeting.

*Other business:* Peter shared recent BAC ideas for upgrading the Narrow Gauge trail. Some users would prefer that it be kept as natural as possible, but it would seem that improved access from Town center to the VA Hospital and to the Lane School ought to have high priority. Samantha mentioned also the trail segment used to access Lane School from the east side of Fawn Lake.

*Liaison Reports:* Chris Gittens reported on Planning Board deliberations on housing developments that are in process. Each requires an accompanying traffic study. Craig urged the Planning Board to stay informed of the bicycle master plan, for which Chris expressed strong support. Ed Pierce reported on various projects under consideration by the Select Board. A new fire station is being planned. There are proposals to convert the old one into a public arts/culture/historical museum venue.

At 8:45 pm **TAC and BAC motions were made** to adjourn the meeting. **Both motions were seconded and subsequently passed unanimously.**

—*Minutes submitted by Secretary/Clerk Peter Weichman*