

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 18, 2023 – 7:30pm, over Zoom

Attendees: Ginger Reiner, Bob Wolf, John Mendelson, Doug Carson, Kim Bodnar, Ian Spencer, Chris Murphy

- Ginger and Bob discussed their previous meeting where they recorded minutes using a Fathom summary that they subsequently edited using the transcript as an aid. With no objections or volunteers to take manual minutes, the decision was made to continue with Fathom for tonight's minute.
- They also talked about Frank Kjaersgaard's email regarding the challenges of getting from Battle Road Farm to Lincoln School by bike, including the need for safe crosswalks and improvements to Bedford Road, the 5 Way intersection, and aspects of the roadside paths.
- Ian briefed the committee on the decision-making process for issuing warnings or citations for drivers involved in incidents. Ian shared that a warning is often used in place of a citation because it shows blame and cannot be contested the way that a citation can be. Ian shared incident reports, including a cyclist who suffered significant injuries after being struck by a Comcast van on Conant Road. They talked about the location of the accident, the van driver's responsibility, and the written warning issued to the driver. Bob, Ginger, Ian, and John discussed the details of the tricky spot on the road with limited visibility due to trees and brush.
- The group discussed updates on ongoing initiatives, including the Farrar Road Advisory Shoulder Pilot survey, the conceptual design for nine projects, and a speed reduction pilot. Bob gave an update on the speed reduction pilot, including the possibility of pursuing a conversation with MassDOT and having the police do an informal speed study. The group agreed to continue work towards a speed reduction pilot. Slow progress on the Fitchburg Rail with Trail project idea was reported by Bob. BPAC also discussed the visibility of Lincoln Mall northernmost one way entrance and the history behind the slip lane there that was included for public safety access and brainstormed possible solutions. There was a brief discussion on conditions in and relationship with MMNHP.
- BPAC reviewed the success of the Walk Bike Roll to School and E-bike demo events and discussed plans to improve messaging around alternative modes of transportation for next year's Walk Bike Roll to School event. The group discussed coordinating with the school administration around distributing permission slips for bus riders earlier next year.
- The committee discussed effective ways to educate drivers about the new four-foot passing law and brainstormed ideas for road signage and outreach efforts to promote safe driving habits.

- Ginger reported on vacancies on BPAC and will report Megan's stepping down to the Select Board. Doug was thanked for his service as the PRC liaison since CSAC was established.
- Under "other business", response to the Climate Action strategies list was discussed.