

BPAC Meeting

DATE: July 15, 2021 – 7:30pm

Virtual Meeting Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order, as Extended on June 15, 2021, with the Governor's signing of Senate Bill # 2475, Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

Present: Bob Wolf, Ginger Reiner, Doug Carson, Jonathan Dwyer, Megan Kate Nelson, Margaret Olson, John Mendelson

Notes: Megan Kate Nelson

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome

II. Discussion & Updates

- **MassDOT 126 Railroad Bridge replacement plans**

Bob introduced the letter regarding the Route 126 RR bridge replacement; the bridge is clearly in need of replacement, in both surface and structure. The committee agrees that the potholes and fissures in the bridge are currently severe enough to injure cyclists; the joints are particularly bad, on both sides. Bob proposed to go to the bridge and mark the dangerous spots with paint and then report them to Chris Bibbo for repair.

Ginger noted that the plan states the road will be widened to accommodate bike lanes and a sidewalk on the east side—but that the research proves that widening roads actually increases the speed of traffic. Bob suggested another strategy, to narrow the road instead and provide for a wider roadside path (8 feet) and a four-foot shoulder.

The committee approved a motion to suggest this plan to the town, via email to the RTC and to Paula [].

- **MassDOT 2A project update**

JD reports that Paula and [] met with MassDOT regarding our reaction to the 2A project plan; said they would get back to us in 4-6 weeks. JD has also been in touch with committees in

neighboring towns and Minuteman high school, which voted in support of Lincoln's response. JD reported there was a letter from Minuteman National Park; needs more time to deliberate and comment. The committee discussed further investigation of the route of a new pathway that would connect Bedford Lane with Bedford Road, and whether or not we should spend energy advocating for this particular path. JD will keep the committee apprised of developments.

- **Trail use discussion**

Ginger reported on a meeting with the [Conservation Commission] regarding the network of bike trails, and the discussion they had about dangerous conditions on the trails and suggestions that we look at how neighboring towns maintain their bike trails. There was a consensus that we don't want to go back to the '90s conditions on the trails, when a company in town commercialized rides on the trails and they were jammed with mountain bikes. The commission is moving toward a public forum in the fall, and BPAC determined we want to continue to be included in that discussion.

Margaret wondered if they are thinking of the trails in terms of connectivity or recreation. The committee agreed to advocate for thinking about the network as part of the town's network of roads available to bikers, pedestrians, and walkers; and for BPAC to argue for the use of bikes on trails. Ginger noted that one commission queried whether or not bike trails are part of BPAC's charge re: bike safety; the committee affirmed that getting bikes off the road is one of our concerns to promote safety.

Bob noted that the commission map notes 8 ½ miles of trails are open to bikes, not including roadside paths; the committee discussed existing trails connecting those noted and opportunities for connectivity not yet in place or closed to bikes.

JD noted that Lincoln's process for creating conservation trail easements do not include access to bikes, and that this policy needs to change.

Ginger suggested that BPAC advocate for a town policy that all trails are open to bikes with usage guidelines. The committee agreed to advocate for this, as well as the posting of more obvious signs on dangerous stretches (like the boardwalk section of the path connecting Drumlin Farm to Weston Woods) that cyclists should dismount and walk their bikes, and dogs should be leashed.

The committee agreed to stay involved in the conversation and attend the public forum on the trails that the CC will hold in the fall.

- **Farrar Rd updates: Advisory Shoulder, 126 crosswalk**

Bob reported that the select board approved BPAC's Farrar Road proposal and the application was submitted to the Federal Highway Administration. Bob had an email exchange with Chris Bibbo and John Vancor regarding work on the crosswalk to complement the Farrar Road advisory shoulder.

Ginger reported some good publicity after the July 4th parade, with a float award (woohoo!) and an article in the *Squirrel* reporting on our activities, including the Farrar Road project. The committee decided to wait to publicize it more until right before the shoulders are painted. In the meantime, we can tweak the bookmark handout or any other publicity materials.

- **Master Plan status updates**

Bob reported that some of the narrative components of our introduction to Master Plan are complete; others are still needed. David wants to deliver the infrastructure draft to the committee in late August, and would like a public meeting to review his document and recommendations in late September. Need a pretty complete intro and plan to be ready by the state of the town meeting in November, so that we can present it to the entire town in spring 2022.

The committee decided that, given open meeting laws, each committee member would send comments and edits to the author of the section in the next ten days to two weeks.

- **Community Anti-Racist Advocate Training / WIDE Lincoln**

The committee will continue to keep goals of diversity and inclusion in mind while writing the introductory narrative for the Master Plan, and think of ways to implement infrastructural changes that will improve accessibility, and therefore socio-economic and racial diversity among users on Lincoln's roadside paths, trails, and roadways.

III. **Action Items**

- Approve minutes: June 10, 2021

Minutes were approved by the committee

- **Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting (virtual) will be Tuesday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m.