

From: Julia Fuller <fuller.juliam@gmail.com>  
To: SDeCourcey@town.arlington.ma.us, jcurro@alumni.tufts.edu, DMahon@town.arlington.ma.us, DDunn@town.arlington.ma.us, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us  
Cc: mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us, townmanager@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@gmail.com, michaiahforselectboard@gmail.com  
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 12:04:06 -0400  
Subject: Addition to agenda for June 1 select board meeting

Dear select board members,

I am writing in support of adding the bicycle crash on May 5, 2020 to the agenda for the select board meeting agenda on Monday, June 1, 2020.

The intersection of Appleton and Mass Ave has a high number of crashes, especially those involving pedestrians and bicyclists. Additionally, due to the proximity of Ottoson Middle School there are hundreds of people crossing this intersection around the times that the school opens and closes each day. It is also difficult to see through the intersection as a driver when coming down Appleton Street. This makes it hard to tell if there is a bicyclist, pedestrian, or other car until you, as a driver, have nearly entered the intersection. The traffic signals are confusing and can be difficult for drivers to follow, resulting in hard to predict behaviors between drivers.

When not under a stay-at-home order, I regularly use my bike for transportation, to run errands, go to and from my office in Cambridge, as well as for exercise. While there have been improvements to a lot of areas around Boston in recent years, there are still plenty of roadways that fail to create a safe environment for cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists to coexist. I have had numerous close calls and one collision with a car while on my bike and know that, at least anecdotally, my friends and coworkers who bike regularly have had a similar experience.

Charlie Proctor, the bicyclist killed in the accident earlier this month, was a longtime friend of mine. We grew up together in CT, learned to sail and race together throughout high school, went on to be teammates on the Tufts University Sailing team, and continued to be close friends as we both pursued our interests in the outdoors such as skiing and rock climbing. Charlie was a truly special person who had a unique ability to get people excited to try new things. It seems like everyone I've spoken to about him has a memory of Charlie pushing them to challenge themselves and learn something new while having fun in the process.

In pursuing challenging outdoor activities, Charlie was always responsible and took care to make very calculated judgments about risk. It's hard to believe that he could safely climb Denali only to be killed going on a routine bike ride less than 20 minutes from home.

Charlie's death has had a big impact on his friends and family and throughout the outdoors community in New England. We are all devastated to have lost him and share the feeling that we owe it to Charlie to improve bike safety in our area so that other people don't have to experience the loss that we are now. The accident on May 5 may feel like it is just one event but there is significant data to show that the intersection of Appleton and Mass Ave is unsafe and could be improved. Please add this crash to the agenda for the select board meeting on June 1, 2020 and move towards a safer roadway system for everyone in our area.

Thank you,  
Julia Fuller

Julia Fuller  
203-803-7272 | [fuller.juliam@gmail.com](mailto:fuller.juliam@gmail.com)  
[www.linkedin.com/in/juliamansfieldfuller](https://www.linkedin.com/in/juliamansfieldfuller)