

From: Brian Campion <communitynursestheford@gmail.com>

Subject: Masks

Date: December 6, 2021 at 12:44:20 PM EST

To: lilian.shen.vt@gmail.com

Li, etal

Please enact a mask in public buildings mandate. For those who dislike the idea, they can thank you for saving their lives later.

Brian Campion

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Andrew G. Welch" <Andrew.G.Welch@dartmouth.edu>  
Subject: Support for indoor mask mandate  
Date: December 6, 2021 at 6:23:52 AM EST  
To: "selectboard@thetfordvt.gov" <selectboard@thetfordvt.gov>

This is to voice my support for an indoor mask mandate in Thetford.

With grateful recognition of the time and effort Select Board members devote in service to our town.

Andrew G. Welch  
Sawnee Bean Road

Sent from my iPhone

## Marion Betts

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**From:** Lilian Shen <lshen@thetfordvt.gov> on behalf of Lilian Shen  
**Sent:** Monday, December 06, 2021 5:13 PM  
**To:** Marion Betts  
**Subject:** ANOTHER LETTER Re: Mask mandate

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Thelma Thompson <thelma48thom@hotmail.com>  
**Subject:** Mask mandate  
**Date:** December 6, 2021 at 5:07:06 PM EST  
**To:** "[selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)" <[selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)>

To members of the Thetford, VT Selectboard:

I read with great interest the fact that you will be considering an indoor mask mandate for businesses in Thetford at tonight's Selectboard meeting. I am unable to attend, but want to let you know some of my thoughts.

I think, in light of what we have seen with the delta variant and what we know to date of omicron (admittedly information is quite preliminary), that no action is not an option.

There are arguments for and against an actual mandate and, if a mandate, whether there would be an enforcement mechanism. I hope that you will carefully consider all the options. Will it be enough to simply issue a strongly worded encouragement for everyone to wear masks indoors? I think not.

Certainly, the health experts advise mask mandates as being extremely effective. The Governor's argument and that of some others is that a mandate will only harden opposition. Perhaps, but during the earlier mandate, mask wearing in Vermont was higher than now, and at that time opposition was scattered. When polled, most people would like to see everyone wear masks.

Some say a mandate would drive away business from Thetford. I suspect the opposite is true. Those of us who are now avoiding buying groceries at the stores in town in favor of Hannaford's in Bradford, the Coop in Lebanon and other places who do require masks, will be much more likely to patronize local businesses in the future if we knew that people in the narrow aisles of these stores would be masked. If I did not get my mail at one of these businesses, I would not be entering at all given how few there currently wear masks.

It is difficult for a small business to require masks on their own. To be effective, the cashiers and other employees need to be backed up by a wider mandate. Yes, some who do not wear masks now will not respond to any mandate, but if it convinces even some that the pandemic is not only not over, but likely entering a new phase that may be as bad as earlier ones, that will be some progress. Mask wearing will not solve the problem, but it is one way to buy more

time, time for more people to get boosters, time for more kids to get initial vaccinations, time for potential medications to be developed and approved and distributed, and perhaps even time for some adults who are hesitant to get their first shots.

It makes sense for any actions to be time-limited, to be reviewed as state data regarding infections and hospital resources change and as our knowledge of omicron grows.

We all wish that common sense had not become politicized, but since it has happened, we need to deal with the situation in which we find ourselves.

Sincerely,  
Thelma Thompson  
Post Mills

Sent from Outlook

## Marion Betts

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**From:** Lilian Shen <lshen@thetfordvt.gov> on behalf of Lilian Shen  
**Sent:** Monday, December 06, 2021 4:41 PM  
**To:** Marion Betts  
**Subject:** PLEASE - Another Letter for Package!!

In addition to the three I just sent you!

Sorry, but they are equally relevant to the letters already included.

Cheers,  
Li

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Will Meglathery <[will.meglathery@gmail.com](mailto:will.meglathery@gmail.com)>  
**Subject: Re: Bicycle Signage - Selectboard seeks to return money**  
**Date:** December 3, 2021 at 11:08:45 AM EST  
**To:** Lilian Shen <[lshen@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:lshen@thetfordvt.gov)>, [selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)

Dear Selectboard and Li,

I will be able to make Monday's meeting about sharrows on Tucker Hill Road and Thetford Academy. My opinion is stated below:

As a person who lives on Tucker Hill road and bikes on TA and Tucker Hill roads I would like to find middle ground here. I know that it detracts from the rural feel of those roads. However, letting motorists know that there is slower traffic on the road would help with safety and these three roads definitely get higher bike traffic than other roads in the Upper Valley due to a national bike route that uses the road and local recreational traffic. I would suggest using sharrows minimally on Tucker and TA roads and strongly support share the road signs at both ends of Tucker Hill and TA roads or something that would let motorists know that there is bicycle traffic on these specific roads.

Thanks,  
Will Meglathery

From: "Barbara E. Knauff" <Barbara.E.Knauff@dartmouth.edu>  
Subject: FW: Bicycle safety signage  
Date: December 6, 2021 at 3:22:25 PM EST  
To: "lshen@thetfordvt.gov" <lshen@thetfordvt.gov>

Hi Li,

In preparation for tonight's selectboard meeting, where the "Sharrows Grant" is on the noticed agenda, I wanted to re-send a letter to the selectboard which I had sent this summer, in order to express my strong support for more safety signage to remind drivers that cyclists might be present, and have a right to the road. See below.

Despite my strong commitment to bike commuting, I drive a lot more than I bike – like most Thetford residents. Whenever I drive in a place I haven't been to before, and see sharrows on the road, here's what I think, roughly in this order:

1. Look out for bikes!!!
2. Possibly pedestrians and dogs around as well – let's slow down a bit...
3. Oh wow, this community cares about alternative modes of transportation!
4. Enough so that the community made sharrows on the road happen!
5. I already like it here....

I do hope that Thetford ends up accepting and implementing the sharrows grant. I see so much good in it, and no harm – I'd be devastated if we as a community were to turn it down.

All best,  
Barbara

-----[SEP] Barbara Knauff, Ph.D. | Associate  
Director, Academic Technology Programs  
Information, Technology & Consulting | Dartmouth College  
[Schedule a meeting](#)

**From:** Barbara E. Knauff

<Barbara.E.Knauff@dartmouth.edu><sup>[L]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup>**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 at 16:59<sup>[L]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup>**To:** Ishen@thetfordvt.gov

<Ishen@thetfordvt.gov><sup>[L]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup>**Subject:** Bicycle safety signage

Hi Li,

I just wanted to add my voice to the discussion around bicycle safety signage – I understand that the town has obtained a grant for that, but that there is discussion around whether to actually accept the grant/put in place the signage, or not.

I've been a pretty serious cyclist for over thirty years, both for pleasure and utility. I've been bike commuting to Dartmouth for much of the year going on two decades now; usually biking along route 5. After tens of thousands of miles on local roads, I have had plenty of close calls, and one pretty harrowing incident, when an on-coming left-turning vehicle drove straight into me: I was thrown onto the hood and into the windshield. Thank god for helmets, but one of my shoulders has a permanently interesting scar pattern from all the glass that went in there. And this was a pretty lucky outcome – it could have been much worse. All this by way of saying that bicycle safety is not just a theoretical concern for me, but that I've personally experienced what can happen when a bike and a motor vehicle collide: it's never good news for the cyclist.

I do everything I can to enhance my own safety: I wear hi-visibility yellow; I've stuck reflective tape onto my bike and helmet; I use flashy lights; I ride defensively. But I am also a big proponent for any measure that promotes a more bike-friendly infrastructure, including signage which might alert drivers to the presence of cyclists, and remind them that cyclists have a right to the road. Sharrows do this pretty well. So do the diamond-shaped yellow signs pointing out the potential presence of cyclists.

I fail to see the disadvantage of applying this signage: it doesn't change anything about the driving experience, other than – hopefully - alert drivers to other traffic participants. We are not talking about affecting

speed limits, or about rebuilding roads in more traffic-calming ways. The scenic impact of signage is negligible; I'd argue that we have already wrecked the view by constructing massive asphalt and concrete arteries throughout our landscapes! We just don't "see" that impact anymore...

In my opinion, turning down this grant also sends an unfortunate message: that we collectively don't care much about the safety of everyone traveling our roads; and that we don't take even simple measures to promote sustainable modes of travel or recreation, even as we see the impacts of climate change.

There is a lot of cycling activity in Thetford. I just had a look on Strava, which is an app allowing cyclists to log and may their routes. It showed almost 4000 individual trips from Thetford Center up Thetford Hill over the past few years, for example. This is just one of many such apps which people use to track their rides– and the majority of cyclists don't log their trips at all. So this is arguably just the tip of the bike activity iceberg. I'm attaching a screenshot of a map of Thetford with Strava's cycling heatmap overlaid – it gives a good idea of what the most biked-on roads are (the more rides, the more white-hot the color).

I do hope we can do something with this grant to increase driver awareness of cyclists on the road. If it saves just one person from going through a windshield, or worse, it's worth doing!

Thanks for listening –  
Barbara

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-----[L] [SEP] Barbara Knauff, Ph.D. | Associate  
Director, Academic Technology & Consulting  
Information, Technology & Consulting | Dartmouth College | Berry  
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[Schedule a meeting](#)