

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE

REPORT 4-2010

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee held on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Chair Brian Baty; Scott Elliott, Niagara Regional Police Services, Dave Hunt, Pat Maloney, Janice Makepeace, Town of Lincoln, Paul Pattison, Bob Romanuk, Tom Whitelaw

Staff: Phil Bergen, Transportation Services Division, Ken Forgeron, Integrated Community Planning, Penny Pitt, Administrative Assistant, Clerk's Department.

Regrets: Wade Smith

Guests: Eric Martinen

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

55. The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following Items for Information:

- CanBike
- Globe and Mail article re: cycling safety
- GNCR Strategic Planning Meeting
- GranFondo Race
- Road Closure Listings
- Website

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

56. Report 3-2010

The minutes of the RNBC meeting of April13, 2010, Report 3-2010 were approved with the following amendments:

Page RNBC 17 – Minute Item 38 – Action Item 24 – change Paul Davies to Peter Davies
Page RNBC 22 – Minute Item 51 –Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour – day one will begin at Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake.....

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS ITEMS AND BUSINESS ARISING

57. Action Item 6 – 2012 Heritage Bicycle Route Brochure/Route

Bob Romanuk has drafted a route from the Laura Secord Homestead. Work on the brochure will begin closer to the 2012 celebration.

Action Item 17 – Proposed Bicycle/Transit Shelter

Members were invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony on June 3, 2010. This action item is now complete and will be removed from the listing.

Action Item 24 – Hamilton to Niagara Falls Routes

Pat Maloney apprised the committee that he will be using Bikely.com to develop cue sheets for two routes (above and below the Escarpment) from Hamilton to Niagara Falls for inclusion on RNBC website of scenic bike loops.

Action Item 28 – Laminated Bicycle Maps

The status of the NEDC being the Tourism of Niagara source is under consideration. More information regarding key players is needed before moving forward with the lamination of the bicycle maps.

Action Item 32 – Hwy 406 – Port Robinson Rd to East Main Street Improvements

The owner of the Trillium Railway is not in favour of a bicycle/pedestrian bridge and to date the MTO has been reluctant to get involved. Information is needed regarding additional costs, liability and maintenance responsibilities.

Action Item 35 – Proposed Bicycle Policies

Dave Hunt provided the committee with a copy of the draft Model Municipal Bicycle Transportation Policies for review. Committee comments to be sent directly to Dave Hunt jordave@cogeco.ca by June 15th.

Action Item 40 – 2010 Bike Show

This item is completed and will be removed.

Action Item 50 – RNBC Website

Bob Romanuk apprised the committee that discussion of the ownership of the URL is still pending. The split page site is needed to direct traffic to the RNBC website and other cycling information. At the present time there are not enough statistics to determine if a split page site is viable and the suggested modified split page is not acceptable to Mr. Romanuk. At the end of August a traffic report will be available and a meeting with Denise Papaiz, Connie McCutcheon, Chair Baty and Mr. Romanuk will be held to further discuss the website. **ACTION ITEM 50**

Action Item 57 – Feeder Canal Road Bike Lanes

This item is completed and will be removed.

Action Item 60 - Proposed “Share the Road” Brochure

Committee members will arrange meeting to discuss the next steps.

Action Item 65 – 2010 Great Waterfront Trail Adventure

Scott Elliott contacted Ian Lobb regarding the closure of the Fifteen Mile Creek Bridge and how it would affect the GWTA. Mr. Lobb advised him that they have worked around the problem. This completes Action Item 65 and it will be removed.

Action Item 66 – NRBSWFPP Study

The task force has met once and a work plan has been sketched out. A student is working on the project. In follow up to Councillor Baty’s suggestion that a bicycle signage workshop for local municipalities be arranged for a Saturday, Phil Bergen will invite Frank Pravitz and Lisa Gallant from Public Health. **ACTION ITEM 66**

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

58. Update RNBC Website Membership Information

The membership information on the RNBC website is outdated and incorrect. Chair Baty will contact Denise Papaiz to make the necessary changes. **ACTION ITEM 67**

TASK FORCE REPORTS

59. Engineering/Network Task Force

- South Niagara East West Corridor Study

Revision to PIC #2 panels and display boards are available and will be sent out to the RNBC members for comments. Delcan will be making a presentation to Public Works

Committee on July 6, 2010. Phases 1 and 2 of the study will be completed by late July 2010.

- Highway 406 – Notice of Design and Construction Report Completion

Through correspondence from LGL Limited, the committee was advised that a detail design study for Highway 406 advanced grading was completed and will be available for review until June 11, 2010 after which the proposed construction process will commence.

The proposed construction will involve the following:

- advanced grading (partial) of ramp 406 South-Merritt East/West, ramp Merritt West – 406 North and ramp 406 North –Merritt East/West
- advanced grading for Highway 406 northbound lane from north of the Old Welland Canal to Merritt Road
- the relocation of a water main and sanitary sewer at Highway 406/Woodlawn Road

- Niagara Region Bicycle Signage and Way Finding Pilot Project Update

The signage and wayfinding task force have met and are in the process of confirming the following:

- criteria for location and use of signs
- design of signs (destination, direction, distance, size of fonts)
- how many destinations can be used per location

60. Education and Encouragement Task Force

- The Great Waterfront Trail Adventure Ride

Scott Elliott informed the committee Ian Lobb from the Great Waterfront Trail Adventure has worked around the issue of the Fifteen Mile Creek Bridge. Mr. Lobb is still in need of more volunteers for the ride and committee members were asked to contact him if interested in volunteering 289-668-4829.

- 3rd Edition Bicycle Map

Betsy Foster, from NEDC would like to see the 3rd edition of the Bicycle map ready for the Bicycle Show in February 2011. Committee members thought that this would not be feasible but a technically updated "version 2" of the map could be completed. Chair Baty requested copies of the 1st edition of the map if any were available. Lincoln Graphics has reprinted 10,000 2nd edition maps at a cost of \$4,553.00.

61. **Policy Task Force**

- Draft Model Municipal Bicycle Policies

Dave Hunt provided the committee with a draft copy of the Model Municipal Bicycle Transportation Policies. Mr. Hunt gave a summary overview of the input, review and approval process timetable and asked that any committee comments be sent to him before June 15th. Further updates will be provided at the next RNBC meeting.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

62. Pedestrian Bridge over the Welland Recreational Waterway ICP 19-2010

Correspondence was received from the Regional Clerk in regards to ICP 19-2010 that Regional Council at its meeting of April 22/23 approved the recommendations in the report with the following amendment:

That Staff continue to work with the Ministry of Transportation for continued support and guidance respecting the Pedestrian Bridge over the Welland Recreational Waterway

63. Complete Streets Forum/Bike Train Partners Summit

Phil Bergen, Ken Forgeron and Dave Hunt attended the successful Complete Streets Forum in Toronto on April 22nd and 23rd and provided the committee with a summary overview. This report was also emailed to RNBC members on April 29th.

Phil Bergen and Dave hunted attended the Bike Train Partners Summit on April 22nd and also provided a synopsis to the committee.

64. Welland Canal Trail (GNCR) Status

Committee members were apprised of concerns regarding the maintenance of the GNCR Trail. City of Thorold has received reports of debris and stones on the trail as well as dogs off leash which could be a potential hazard for cyclists., The City of Thorold does not have staff solely dedicated to trail maintenance or policing its usage but hope to be able to squeeze trail maintenance into regular duties of maintaining the city's parks and cemeteries, approximately once a month or when time allows.

65. Niagara Hamilton Burlington 2010 Joint Cycling Meeting

Several committee members attended the Niagara Hamilton Burlington 2010 Joint Cycling Meeting held on May 15th at the Burlington Seniors Centre. Discussions revolved around the following issues:

- Paved shoulder may be cheaper to maintain than gravel
- Roundabouts – 13 in Cambridge
- No consistent Provincial standard design for signage

- Burlington interchanges need to be more bicycle friendly
- Canada's first "3 foot" bicycle passing law www.sharetheroad.ca

66. Niagara to GTA Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting Update

Tom Whitelaw attended the Niagara to GTA Corridor Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday May 6th held at the Casablanca Winery Inn. Another series of PIC's will be held on June 13th in Welland, June 21st in Jerseyville and June 23rd in Burlington. This project has an impact on the walkability and bikeability of communities. The key steps in these PIC's (#4) will be to select preferred transportation alternative(s) and recommend a multi-modal Transportation Development Strategy. Information to be presented at the PICs will be available on the study website beginning on June 17th. Comments may also be submitted via the study website at www.niagara-gta.com.

67. Port Robinson Ferry Service

The ferry, which crosses the canal in Port Robinson, began its free service on the May 24th weekend. The city of Thorold and the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation have a new operating agreement which expires at the end of 2016. The Seaway covers the cost of the service up to approximately \$80,000 and the city administers it. Any costs above the Seaway's share fall to the city. It has been suggested that Niagara Region join the partnership eventually, since many of the ferry users are tourists to the area. When the canal is closed during the winter, a shuttle bus moves people from one side of Port Robinson to the other.

68. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Policy Plan Framework

The Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Policy Framework Report (PWA 37-2010/ICP 25-2010) was received at the Public Works Committee meeting on May 4, 2010 and approved at Council on May 13, 2010. Regional staff will move forward with the development of policies to be included in the Regional Policy Plan through a formal Policy Plan Amendment process. The report and the TDM Policy Framework will be circulated to the Integrated Community Planning, Community Services, Public Health, Corporate Services departments and to local municipalities for consideration in developing future work plans and projects that may support TDM objectives within the Niagara Region.

69. Web Based Scenic Route Update

The committee was provided with a sample copy of a "Scenic Cycling Route" from the Regional website. A link to "regional road closures lists" would be beneficial to have available as well. Scott Elliott stated that the NRPS receive briefing sheets everyday of road closures and he will look into where this information is derived.

70. Can Bike Instructor Workshop

A Can-Bike Instructor Workshop was held at the Regional Niagara Headquarters on May 17 -19th for CAN-BIKE 2 graduates who were interested in becoming a CAN-BIKE Instructor. Participants of this course further increase their cycling skills and learn effective teaching techniques, including course planning and risk management. The workshop covers class curriculum, risk management, and administration. From this workshop the region has an additional five qualified instructors bringing the total to sixteen. Dave Hunt informed the committee that he is considering becoming a national examiner.

71. Ontario Aims to Boost Cycling Safety

In an article from the Globe and Mail, May19th issue, it was announced that Transportation Minister Kathleen Wynne was launching a review of the province's cycling policies. She is also receptive to a private member's bill introduced that would require drivers to leave a buffer zone of three feet when passing cyclists on city streets and five feet on highways.

72. GranFondo

GranFondo Canada is dedicated to producing quality road cycling events that provide a premium cycling experience to riders of all levels. On June 16, 2010 a meeting will held at the Niagara Region with an information overview to be discussed. Plans are being made to hold this event June 18, 2011 on the Greater Niagara Circle Route.

73. GNCR Strategic Planning Meeting

On May 26, 2010 the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee held a strategic planning session facilitated by Dianne Coppola of Niagara Region's Integrated Community Planning Department. The purpose of the planning session was to initiate the process of developing a strategy to present to the new Regional Council. Meeting notes will be distributed to the committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

74. Drew Semple Retiring

Committee members were encouraged to attend Drew Semple's upcoming retirement party on June 23, 2010. Drew has been an integral part of the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee.

ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION

75. The following items were distributed to committee members:
- An article entitled “ CAA roadside assistance offers cycling service”
 - An invitation to Drew Semple’s Retirement Party
 - A copy of the newly printed 2nd Edition Bicycling Map

SUMMER SOCIAL MEETING

76. A suggestion was made to meet the week of August 9th at Frado’s for a summer social. The only agenda item would be the draft bicycle policies.

ADJOURNMENT

The committee meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4.

Brian Baty
Chair

Penny Pitt
Administrative Assistant
Clerk’s Department