

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, May 9, 2002
Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters
7:00 p.m.

Present:

David Hunt	- Public at Large (Acting Chair)
Jan Somerwil	- Public at Large
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
Bill Rashleigh	- Public at Large
John Reep	- Public at Large
Dwight Alguire	- Public at Large
John Helm	- Niagara Freewheelers
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Bob Johnson (Transportation)	- Regional Niagara Public Works
Jody Head	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Councillors McMullan and Gabriel were unable to attend due to another meeting, so David Hunt agreed to chair the meeting. Bob Romanuk sent in his regrets.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion:

To accept Agenda

Moved by: Jan Somerwil

Seconded by: John Helm

Carried

2. Review of Meeting Notes of April 11, 2002

Under the Education Task Force report on page 3, second paragraph, it should read "Tim Whittle also reported that there was a media release on April 10th concerning the changes in the helmet standards..."

Under the Encouragement Task Force report on page 3, it should read "Bob Romanuk reported they are working hard on Bike Week Plans, including Bike Friendly awards." The words "for businesses" should be deleted.

Motion:

To accept RNBC Meeting Notes of April 11, 2002, as revised.

Moved by: Paul Pattison

Seconded by: Jan Somerwil

Carried

3. Business Arising

Ferry Crossing

Bob Johnson clarified that the issue of extended hours for the Port Robinson Ferry Crossing in Thorold would be dealt with both through the bicycle component of the Regional Transportation Study and through the arterial roads review. Ken Forgeron will forward a copy of the letter sent to Dave McLaughlin of Marshall Macklin Monaghan.

4. Task Force Reports

Encouragement Task Force

Marian Landry prepared two brochures, one for Bike Week and one for the Bicycle Friendly Awards. She requested the Committee's input on the graphics, print, colour etc.

For the Bicycle Friendly Award, it was agreed the brochure will have the graphic of a male biker with a victory wave, along with the Regional logo and RNBC logo, printed on buff paper, with navy and green ink.

A distribution plan for both items above will be prepared.

Motion:

To print Bicycle Friendly Award on buff paper, with navy blue and green ink, after M. Landry investigates the cheapest price.

Moved by: Paul Pattison

Seconded by: John Helm

Carried

The Bike Week brochure will have the graphic of two people bicycling on the front, along with the Regional logo and RNBC logo. There will be various road sign graphics throughout the brochure. The brochure will depict the various activities that will be taking place during Bike Week. All the information included in the brochures will be forwarded to Bob Romanuk to be posted on the web site.

Various changes were suggested to Marian and it was agreed that all changes should be put in writing and submitted to Marian after the meeting so they could be incorporated into the brochure. It has to go to print ASAP.

It was suggested that the Regional Chair, Debbie Zimmerman, be asked to announce the launch of the Bicycle Friendly Award Program at the next Council meeting.

Motion:

To request that the Regional Chair announce the launch of the Bicycle Friendly Award at Regional Council.

Moved by: John Helm

Seconded by: Jan Somerwil

Carried

Marian wanted the Committee's input concerning advertisement for Bike Week and the Bicycle Friendly Award program. It was suggested that Marian contact the Chair's office to request a press release concerning both programs. The cost would be too high to advertise in all the local newspapers. Paul Pattison suggested that next year advertising should be put in the Leisure Guide that every municipality puts out in the spring.

Engineering Task Force

Frank Pravitz advised that there have been no Engineering Task Force meetings, but he will be contacting Ron Tripp to arrange for a meeting in the near future.

John Helm reported to the Committee that the markers on Regional Road 81 (between 3rd and 5th Street Louth) for snow plow operators have been moved and wanted to thank the Region. Bob Johnson advised that the new reflectors being used are now attached to the guide rail. They do not stand independently and take up less area.

Education Task Force

Tim Whittle reported that he is still looking for volunteers to work the RNBC display booth at the various malls during Police Week. Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to contact Tim directly.

Tim reported on the first bicycle fatality of the year. A cyclist was killed when he lost control going down a hill to the Bailey bridge in Jordan and hit a car head on. No other details have been released.

Policy Task Force

The Policy Task Force is inactive until the Bikeways Master Plan has been completed. Eric Flora prepared a summary report on the Master Plan review, which was distributed.

5. Utilitarian Cycling Initiatives

At last month's meeting, there was discussion on whether a map should be made up showing their suitability for cycling. Ken has some maps for viewing. Bob Johnson suggested that this map may not be sanctioned by the Region. This project will be discussed at future meetings.

Ken Forgeron distributed an article titled "Get out of that Car", concerning possible government initiatives to facilitate alternative transportation. He asked people to review the article and send any ideas they have to him over the next month. Ken will record the suggestions and bring them to the July meeting for discussion. Bob Romanuk has submitted a preliminary list.

Some preliminary suggestions for utilitarian cycling initiatives are:

- A survey be taken to get basic information from people at industries, schools and businesses, i.e. why there is only one person in the car, where they are going etc;
- Forming Bike User Groups (BUGS) promoting cycling to work;
- Parking your bike at work should be a taxable benefit;
- Charge students for parking at high schools;
- Increase parking revenues from lots and meters and increase should be put into alternate means of transit;
- Compensations for employees who cycle to work.

6. Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees

Ken Forgeron reported he is unable to attend the May 11 meeting in Burlington because he is guiding a Waterfront Trail tour in Niagara. Tim Whittle and Bob Romanuk will be attending, and Bill Rashleigh reported he is planning on attending, but may be late.

The Agenda for the meeting has been set and is available in the handouts.

7. Information for Distribution

Ken Forgeron distributed the following items for information:

- Signed copy of letter to City of Thorold re ferry crossing;
- Bicycle Master Plan update;
- West Street Promenade Dedication Notice;
- First Aid Kit promotion;
- Email from Peter Warwick regarding Glenridge Avenue bicycling improvements;

- News release from Ministry of Tourism announcing Superbuild awards;
- Aerial photo showing needed link between Fonthill Spur & Steve Bauer trail;
- Copy of last set of Niagara Falls Bikeways Minutes;
- Road Safety Challenge newspaper notice and press release.
- Newspaper Article on need for more bicycle racks in Niagara-On-the-Lake;
- Agenda for May 11 Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees;

8. Agenda Items

Suggestions for next month's agenda items include:

- Report from Joint meeting of Bicycling Committees;
- Canal Access at Lock 7

9. Other Business

- The Effingham Classic Road Race will be held on May 19th, commencing at 11:00 a.m.
- John Reep will be assisting with the promotion of the Bi-National Niagara Tourism Alliance;
- Tim Whittle has been approached by an Italian Cycling Festival body who will be attending the 2003 World Cycling Championships in Hamilton next year and would like to bike in Niagara. They have inquired about having roads closed for a tour. Bob Johnson reported that the Region receives requests and has roads closed all the time (i.e. parades etc). Providing there is a sufficient number of people doing the ride, he doesn't see a problem.

12. Next RNBC Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Regional Headquarters – Committee Room 4 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes Taken by:

Jody Head

Reviewed & Amended by Ken Forgeron, Regional Planning