

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, September 12, 2002
Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Rob Gabriel	- Regional Councillor (Acting Chair)
Bob Romanuk	- Public at Large
David Hunt	- Public at Large
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
Hank Bauer	- Public at Large
Jan Somerwil	- Public at Large
Bill Crux	- Public at Large
Dave Arnott	- Public at Large
Amy Leaming	- Greater Niagara Circle Route
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Jody Head	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Regrets:

Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
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1. Adoption of Agenda

With the addition of a few agenda items discussed later in these meeting notes, the agenda was adopted, as revised.

2. Review of Meeting Notes of July 11, 2002

The meeting of August 8, 2002 was cancelled by the Chair due to vacations of various members.

Motion:

To accept RNBC Meeting Notes of July 11, 2002.

Moved by: Dave Arnott

Seconded by: Dave Hunt

Carried

3. Business Arising

Arterial Road & Bicycle Study

K. Forgeron reported that the concerns pertaining to Jordan Road as a possible truck route have been passed on to both consultants on the above study.

Bicycle Mapping

K. Forgeron reported that Frank Pravitz has spoken to Regional Public Works on a possible partnership between projects affecting the "Backroads Niagara Bicycle Map" and "Green Map".

4.Presentation Concerning Green Map

Nathan Hercanuck was contracted by the Region of Niagara to prepare a green map of the region. His Powerpoint presentation focussed on a Green Map that would showcase the region's environmental attributes, and resources that beneficially impact our quality of life.

The proposed green map for Niagara is hoped to be a multi-jurisdictional project, linked to the Niagara Water Quality Protection Strategy. It would be watershed based and include part of the City of Hamilton, and Haldimand County. This unique approach of focusing on natural system boundaries (ie watershed) rather than political boundaries will emphasize the environmental theme of the map.

Preliminary design and layout of the maps has been completed. A tentative first edition print run is scheduled for April 2003. The plan is to sell the paper Green Maps for a yet to be determined reasonable price. As well, Public Works has been discussing the idea of also creating a limited number of special edition maps that would be mounted or printed. They could be sold and displayed in an office.

Currently Nathan and the Region are seeking stakeholder involvement, partnerships to secure funding, and the involvement of Niagara area educational institutions. For more information on "green maps", see www.greenmap.com.

5.Circle Route Campaign

Amy Leaming of Galloway & Lehanning has been contracted to embark on a \$3.5 million private sector campaign to raise funds to complete the Greater Niagara Circle Route.

The ultimate goal would be to create a loop around the east half of Niagara of approximately 150 km, consisting of a road and trail system. It would be completed over the next 20 years, costing about \$50,000,000. Galloway & Lehanning are hoping to raise \$3.5 million in 2 years. If anyone is interested in assisting with the campaign, please contact Galloway & Lehanning. They have commitments for approximately \$1.5 million. Separate committees are being set up in area municipalities to assist in the fund raising campaign. A recognition pavillion will be built to record donors. Former Prime Ministor John Turner is the honourary chair.

6.Lock 7 Closing

Bob Romanuk is interested in putting together a Committee to develop a strategy to re-open the crossing at Canal Lock 7. Bob will e-mail everyone his ideas and to see if he can get some volunteers for the Committee. Councillor Rob Gabriel suggested he attend Thorold Council and speak to them about his ideas.

7. Signage on Flight Locks Road

Bob Romanuk reported that there was a “No Cycling” sign posted on Flight Locks Road, but it has been removed. Bob Johnson said that prohibition is not possible, but that he would look into this issue for the next meeting.

8. Bicycle Friendly Awards

Marian Landry reported that since there has not been a huge response to the Bicycle Friendly Awards, she requested Committee members to nominate area businesses. She reminded everyone that when completing the form, the more information given, the better.

Marian also reported that she is looking for a Judging Committee, which would meet two times, in October, to decide who should receive the awards. Ken Forgeron agreed to volunteer, and other suggestions were John Turner, Gord Singleton or Steve Bauer.

Marian is waiting to hear back from Chair Zimmerman to see if Regional Council will give the Bicycle Friendly Awards out at a Council meeting. Councillor Gabriel agreed to speak with the Chair’s office about a November meeting date.

Marian distributed a certificate that will be given to all the local businesses who were nominated. It was agreed, that with a few revisions, the certificate should be distributed.

Marian brought a few plaques to help with the decisions on which one should be awarded to the winning businesses. It was agreed that the 5x7 size would be best.

Motion:

That Marian Landry purchase three 5 x 7 marbalized plaques to be given out as Bicycle Friendly Awards.

Moved by: Dave Arnott

Seconded by: Hank Bauer

Carried

9. **Task Force Reports**

Encouragement Task Force

Marian Landry distributed and reviewed the Public Health Department analysis of the cycling survey from the Toronto Bike Show. If no comments have been sent to her within the week, she will forward the results on to Marshall Macklin Monaghan, the Region's bicycle study consultant.

Engineering Task Force

Bob Johnson reported that the consultants have prepared draft planning and design guidelines. Also, a draft network map is complete. Both products will be discussed at the October 10, RNBC meeting. (**Action Item**)

Education Task Force

There was nothing new to report.

10. **Utilitarian Cycling**

The list of ideas to facilitate utilitarian cycling in Niagara has been completed and was distributed. Dave Hunt asked Committee members to review the list and indicate what they feel priorities and advise him by e-mail.

11. **Other Business**

Bob Johnson distributed information and reported on a one-day seminar on pedestrian and bicycle crossings, to be hosted by the Institute of Transportation Engineers, at the Scarborough Civic Centre on Monday October 7th. The Region will be sending representatives and thought the RNBC would be interested as well. Paul Pattison expressed an interest in attending.

Ken Forgeron reported that there is a bicycle tour being set up by the consultants on Sunday, October 20th. It will be an opportunity to review the various types of bike facilities in the area. More details will be provided on October 10th (**Action Item**)

Dave Hunt advised that there is a bicycle conference (Velo Ontario) in Ottawa on October 5th. If anyone wishes, please let Dave know and he will e-mail the final agenda when he receives it.

Bob Johnson reported on the discussions concerning the possible acquisition of an abandoned CP Rail line near Smithville. The interest is that the Township ultimately would own and maintain it for a trail.

12. Information Items Distributed

Ken Forgeron distributed the following items:

- Various e-mails and newspaper articles on the closing of the Lock 7 crossing by the Seaway;
- A bibliography on FHWA Pedestrian and Bicycle Related Research Reports;
- An information report on the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Dunnville Railway Spur;
- Summary statistics on the Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan (RNBMP) User Survey;
- A revised schedule of the RNBMP from Eric Flora

13. **Next RNBC Meeting**

Thursday, October 10, 2002

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

Meeting Notes Taken by:

Jody Head

Reviewed & Revised by Ken Forgeron, Regional Planning