

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING
COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 21, 2008
Regional Headquarters – Campbell West
Committee Room #4
7:00 p.m.



In Attendance:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Dave Hunt | - | Public-at-Large/Cycle Ontario Alliance (Acting Chair) |
| Brian Baty | - | Regional Councillor (Chair) |
| Ken Forgeron | - | Regional Planning and Development |
| Eric Flora | - | Regional Public Works Department |
| Dianne Coppola | - | Regional Public Health Department |
| Pat Maloney | - | Public-at-Large |
| Peter Davies | - | Public-at-Large/Niagara Freewheelers |
| Paul Pattison | - | Public-at-Large |
| Tim Whittle | - | Niagara Region Police Service |
| Frank Pravitz | - | MTO |
| Mate Bodnar | - | Guest |
| Desmond Berlingeri | - | Guest |
| Connie Mancuso-Redman | - | Regional Public Works Department |

Regrets:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Bob Romanuk | - | Public-at-Large |
| Barbara Henderson | - | Mayor, Wainfleet/Regional Councillor |

2 students from Niagara College (Desmond Berlingeri and Mate Bodnar) in Broadcasting, Radio, Television and Film Program are here tonight to basically report the events of this meeting and prepare a report for the radio portion of the Broadcasting Program.

1. Adoption of Agenda

- Adopted as shown.

2. Review of Previous Meeting Notes (January 10, 2008)

- Ken Forgeron noted two revisions on Page 3 – Action Item: ***“Eric Flora, Ken Forgeron and Dianne Coppola to assist Councillor Baty in his presentation of the RNBC Strategic Plan at the next PPWC and CMT meetings”***. Also, minor rewording required to the Action Item to indicate that Objective #1 – ***“will be dealt with at the next RNBC meeting”***.

Motion:

To approve RNBC Meeting Notes of January 10, 2008 as written with minor change noted above.

Moved By: Pat Maloney

Seconded By: Peter Davies

Carried

3. Review of Previous Action Items (January 10, 2008)

- **Action Item #2 – “Councillor Baty noted that the upcoming report on the RNBC Strategic Plan should be developed and finalized prior to its presentation to cycling clubs like the Niagara Freewheelers for their input.”** – Ken Forgeron suggested that since this plan will be presented to CMT and PPW Committee on March 12, 2008, could it be sent out to the Niagara Freewheelers for their input after to March 12th meeting?

Motion:

To forward the RNBC Strategic Plan Report to the Niagara Freewheelers for their input after the March 12, 2008 presentation of this report to CMT and PPW Committees.

Moved By: Paul Pattison

Seconded By: Pat Maloney

Carried

- **Action Item #4 – “Eric Flora to have staff prepare sketch of possible trail linkage location and arrange meetings with the MTO and Mayors of Pelham and Thorold. This action item is in relation to the 406 crossing of the Thorold/Fonthill Spur.”** – meetings with mayors have not taken place yet. Eric Flora indicated that MTO will not consider any paths along their corridors, but they will work with the Region. MTO quoted regulations. MTO is reviewing planning and design guidelines. Regional staff is going to continue to pursue this and meet with mayors.
- **Action Item #5 – “Paul Pattison is to compose a letter in support of the BTAC policy program. A second letter to the City of St. Catharines urging the City to make more of a commitment in its Official Plan and engineering work to facilitate bicycling as one method of combating climate change. Letters will be drafted for signature by Councillor Baty.”** – Letter to City given to Ken Forgeron for review.
- **Action Item #8 – “Tim Whittle to work on updating the RNBC pamphlets, including new bicycle lane brochure, to be ready this spring in conjunction with the Bike Week Campaign. Volunteers to assist with the project would be appreciated.”** – Tim Whittle advised that he has downloaded the items Ken Forgeron forwarded to him. The plan is to have this project ready for Bike Week. Pat Maloney has agreed to assist with this project.
- **Action Item #9 – “Possible 2012 Heritage Bicycle Route Brochure: War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebrations.”** – Ken Forgeron was asked if this committee would be interested in putting together a tourist scenic brochure for this project. Tim Whittle suggested that perhaps it should be someone who would be interested and has the knowledge of the historical aspects of the Niagara area. Tim Whittle indicated that he would mention this to John Reep to ascertain if he would have an interest in perusing this task.
- **Action Item #10 – “Councillor Baty to present (Eric Flora, Ken Forgeron and Dianne Coppola to assist) the RNBC Strategic Plan at the next PPWC and CMT meetings.”** – This presentation was made to CMT on February 5th and is tentatively scheduled to be presented at the PPW Committee meeting scheduled for March 12, 2008.
- **Action Item #12 – “Tim Whittle advised Committee that 40 bike helmets are available at no cost to organizations or persons in hardship circumstances. Councillor Baty is to contact Brian Hutchings (Regional Community Services Department) to advise him of the availability of the bike helmets.”** – 40 helmets are tentatively committed to the CAN-BIKE Program (see further information on this program under the *Education and Enforcement Task Force* section (by Tim Whittle).

4. Business Arising

- Ken Forgeron reported on progress by the City to develop a new ***City of St. Catharines Official Plan*** and possibly a ***Transportation Master Plan***.
- Eric Flora reported that the City of St. Catharines will be undertaking this latter project in **2009**.

5. Items for Consideration

Strategic Plan/Action Plan for “Area of Focus #1” - Bikeways Network and Signage Program

- The committee members shared their suggestions for key strategic actions that could be undertaken to help achieve Objective #1 – the implementation of Council’s approved Regional Bikeways Network.
- Dianne suggested that once the committee has listed their ideas for all three strategic objectives, the committee can then review and prioritize the action items.
- Dianne agreed to research and bring forward possible frameworks to assist with the prioritization process.
- The committee will focus on Objective #2 – assisting Niagara municipalities and other stakeholders with the development and implementation of relevant planning documents....for walking/cycling (goal statement abbreviated) at the April 3rd meeting.
- Members are encouraged to e-mail Dianne Coppola with any other strategic action items pertaining to Objective #1.
- Dianne will compile the information into the worksheet framework and distribute to members in advance of the April 3rd meeting.
- Eric Flora reported that \$200,000 in funding has been dedicated for cycling facilities in the 2008 budget; a 9-year capital program will be looked at.

Action Item:

Members are asked to e-mail Dianne Coppola with any strategic action items pertaining to Objective #1 so she can compile the information into our worksheets and distribute to members in advance of the April 3rd RNBC meeting..

Dianne agreed to research and bring forward possible frameworks to assist with the prioritization process (for review at June 26th RNBC meeting).

The Great Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour (July 4^{to} 11, 2008) – Niagara’s Contribution

- Ken Forgeron reported on the Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour to be held July 4 to 11, 2008).
- The bike tour will begin in Niagara-On-The-Lake and finish at the Quebec border.
- Volunteers are needed for various duties. RNBC members are encouraged to participate.
- Please refer to the handout (The Great Waterfront Trail Adventure! – Media Release – February 2008).
- The handout also includes a volunteer letter and form providing information on training sessions, requirements, etc.

Volunteers for Toronto International Bicycle Show (March 7 to9, 2008)

- Ken Forgeron reported that there has been great support for volunteers for the RNBC booth at the Toronto International Bicycle Show.
- He will be preparing an information e-mail for all who have volunteered for this event.
- Paul Pattison will be setting up the PowerPoint presentation on the Circle Route.
- New photos for the RNBC board and kits put together by the NEDC will hopefully be provided.

RNBC Comments on Provincial Highway Crossings in Communities

- Please refer to handout (letter to Steven Taylor, Project Manager, NCE – A Division of Genivar) containing high level comments that pertain to infrastructure projects like this, which intersect with bicycling and pedestrian facilities within our communities.

Motion:

That is committee approves the letter to Steven Taylor, Project Manager, NCE-A Division of Genivar, and that Councillor Baty sign this letter on behalf of the RNBC.

Moved By: Paul Pattison

Seconded By: Pat Maloney

Carried

Priority Roadways for Bicycle Facilities in 2008

- Eric Flora advised that this subject has already been dealt with through the development of the Regional Bikeways Network.
- Frank Pravitz advised that he can draw up a list of some priorities.
- Engineering Task Force to obtain information.

Action Item:

Frank Pravitz advised that he can draw up a list of some priorities concerning the roadways for bicycle facilities in 2008.

6. Task Force Reports

Engineering Task Force (Eric Flora)

Abandonment of the Spur Line through the Trillium Rail (City of St. Catharines)

- The spur line through the Trillium Rail is being abandoned (located behind the old Domtar property).
- The Regional Property Coordinators are preparing correspondence to the City of St. Catharines and the RNBC supports including a clause stating that the line should be available for a bike and pedestrian trail. There is potential to use this area as there are several links available along this trail.

Motion:

That the RNBC is aware of the proposed abandonment of the spur line through the Trillium Rail and encourages the Regional Property Coordinators (Randy Clegg, SR/WA, Coordinator Properties) to include a clause in the Region's correspondence to the City of St. Catharines stating that the City should keep the line available for a bike and pedestrian trail.

Moved By: Paul Pattison

Seconded By: Peter Davies

Carried

Action Item:

A copy of these meeting notes will be provided to Randy Clegg, SR/WA, Coordinator Properties in order to advise him of this committee's request to inform the City of St. Catharines of their wish to keep the spur line available for a bike and pedestrian trail.

2-way Conversion of St. Paul Street (City of St. Catharines)

- The City of St. Catharines will not be constructing cycling lanes on the section of St. Paul Street that will be converted to a 2-way street.
- Cycling lanes will be provided between King Street and St. Paul, having a right-turn lane and the lane going north.
- A PIC will be held in the future on this project.

McLeod Road Environmental Assessment (EA) (City of Niagara Falls)

- Eric Flora reported on the cycling issues that were part of the discussions during the MTO liaison meeting that was held last week.
- MTO were shown plans; they were unaware of the centre median.
- MTO did not receive an interim report.
- Eric Flora to have Joe Cousins talk to specific mayors before committee meeting.

Education and Enforcement Task Force (Tim Whittle)

CAN-BIKE Program

- The Can-Bike Program, in partnership with Regional Public Health, Regional Police Service and the YMCA will initiate a pilot project in schools this year to allow high risk students to take part in this recognized course for bike safety, which exists Canada-wide.
- 20 students will be selected for a one week instructional camp.
- Students will be given a bike and helmet (the 40 helmets that were donated previously will be used for this event).
- Students will act as mentors for their school and must wear their bike helmets to demonstrate the safety of this practice to other students.
- An initial Can-Bike program may start in the City of Welland, as there is a higher density of high risk schools in this area. The program is only in the conceptual stage right now.
- This is a wonderful program for students and it will need the support of this committee.

Encouragement Task Force (Dianne Coppola)

Status Report – Bicycle Friendly Awards 2002-2007

- Marian Landry would like to see the Awards Program continue; however, Dianne Coppola has suggested a more formal evaluation of the program should be undertaken before a decision is made in light of the data presented in the status report.
- Dianne Coppola noted that the program expenses associated with the BFA's are nominal for this project; however, there is considerable staff time spent on program development and implementation.
- A short discussion was held as to whether the RNBC would like to continue with this project in 2008 as it stands; with modifications or discontinue altogether and it was suggested this be discussed further at the April 3rd meeting so that members would have time to review the report in its entirety.
- More significant volunteer support is deemed essential if the committee wishes to continue the program, as staff time cannot be sustained at present levels.

Policy Task Force (Dave Hunt)

RNBC Policy Task Force Recommendations (2nd DRAFT) City of Port Colborne New Official Plan – As Adopted Oct. 2006

- Ken Forgeron distributed a copy of the RNBC Policy Task Force Recommendations (2nd Draft) for the City of Port Colborne's new Official Plan (as adopted Oct. 2006).
- Areas within the report were commented on and changes are highlighted in red (see report).

Motion:

That the RNBC forward their recommendations and revisions to the City of Port Colborne and the Regional Planning Department for consideration in finalizing the City's new Official Plan (as adopted Oct. 2006).

Moved By: Pat Maloney

Seconded By: Paul Pattison

7. Items for Information:

Bicycle Route Mapping Project – Status (Frank Pravitz)

- Frank Pravitz reported on this project and advised that the GIS Division could provide assistance for this project, but funding is a challenge.
- There may be some possible funding through Healthy Living Niagara (up to \$2,000).
- Regional Council has set aside \$60,000 for co-op students from Niagara College.
- Ken Forgeron inquired as to whether a student could be hired from Niagara College to complete the work.
- Frank Pravitz, Ken Forgeron and Tom Jamieson (GIS) are to meet in early April, in order to discuss means to complete the project.
- Project should be ready in time for Bike Train.

Action Item:

Frank Pravitz to contact Tom Jamieson, Information Assets Manager, of the Region's Information, Development & Mapping Division to organize a meeting in early April, in order to discuss the Bicycle Route Mapping Project. Ken Forgeron will be in attendance as well.

Emerging Provincial Policy Directions on Cycling (Frank Pravitz)

- Frank Pravitz reported that the MTO has been receiving considerable correspondence on the topic of bicycle and pedestrian safety at Provincial highway crossings.
- The MTO is in the process of collecting information on cycling to determine if a review should be conducted on their cycling policy, planning and design and legislative documents.
- There is significant interest by other ministries on this issue and new Provincial policies give cycling and walking greater status.
- Frank Pravitz has been asked to sit on an MTO Technical Review Committee/inter-ministerial working group to deal with these topics. Meetings may begin in the summer.

Bicycling Parking/Transit Shelter – Project Update (Councillor Baty/Ken Forgeron)

- Councillor Baty presented the RNBC strategy plan to senior Regional staff.
- Discussions also took place on a staff parking/transit shelter.
- Once design details are clearer, discussion will occur with CMT.
- Proposed structure design will accommodate 12 bikes and an attached bus shelter with bench.

Action Item:

Once design details are clearer concerning the bicycling parking/transit shelter project, discussion will occur with CMT.

Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees (Ken Forgeron)

- Ken Forgeron advised that there was misinformation about the host for this year's joint meeting of the Bicycling Committees. It is the City of Hamilton's turn to host this year.
- More details on this joint meeting to follow.

Highlights of Waterloo Conference: 'Putting Ontario on Two Wheels' (Conference Participants)

- Ken Forgeron distributed a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from the November conference in Waterloo.

Action Item:

Highlights from this conference will be discussed at the April 3rd RNBC meeting.

- Peter Davies suggested using *Google Earth* as a means to look for locations in order to promote our Region. Google Earth provides different layers which would be useful.
- Bob Romanuk can participate in the discussion on this issue at our next RNBC meeting on April 3rd; (will be shown on agenda).

International Cycling Event (City of Welland) (Tim Whittle)

- Tim Whittle informed the committee that the St. Catharines Cycling Club will be hosting an international cycling event in the City of Welland on August 3rd, 2008 as part of the City's 150 year celebration.
- The 160 km race would start on Main Street in front of City Hall and end back at City Hall.
- The Main Street Tunnel is the hill, which is 2 km long. Closing the tunnel would be a main factor, as the MTO would be concerned with the Highway 140 access.
- David Ferguson is the contact person from the City of Welland.
- This event is in the planning stage at the moment and Tim Whittle will have more to report on this at our next meeting.

Action Item:

Tim Whittle to report on the planning stage of the International Cycling Event to be held in the City of Welland on August 3rd, 2008, as part of the City's 150 year celebration.

Ontario Bicycle Master Plan for Cycling throughout the Province (Dave Hunt)

- Dave Hunt reported on the *Ontario Bicycle Master Plan*. This document outlines key elements for cycling throughout the province. It will be available at the Bike Show.
- Dave may be able to get copies for RNBC members from the website.

8. Items for Distribution (Ken Forgeron)

The following items were distributed at the February 21st, 2008 meeting:

- a) New Urban News (Dec 2007) Article – “Cities redo streets for pedestrians, cyclists, transit”
- b) E-mail from Ken Forgeron – Copy of PowerPoint Presentation from the November Conference in Waterloo “Putting Ontario on Two Wheels”
- c) Niagara Landmarks Article – “Overlooked park pleases the senses” – re: Waterfront Trail
- d) Copy of Letter to Steven Taylor of NCE (Division of Genivar) from RNBC Committee – “Proposals to replace Bowen Road Bridge and Interchange Improvements (Fort Erie) & Widening of QEW between Mountain Road and Hwy 420, Including Interchange Improvements (Niagara Falls)”
- e) RNBC Policy Task Force Recommendations (2nd Draft) – City of Port Colborne New Official Plan – As Adopted Oct. 2006
- f) Tour de Greenbelt (Fall 2008)
- g) Proposed transit hubs may shun cars – GTA transportation agency considers terminals with amenities for buses, pedestrians and cyclists (Tess Kalinowski, Transportation Reporter) – January 28, 2008
- h) Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee – Library Reference Materials – Contents (Feb 2008)
- i) Photos of newly constructed Erie Beach Section of the Friendship Trail in the Town of Fort Erie
- j) E-mail from Betsy Foster (Tourism Niagara) – Bicycle Show Shipment
- k) The Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club – 2008 Tour Schedule
- l) The Seattle Times Article (Feb 2008) – “Danger in the bike lane”
- m) Twenty-Two Reasons for Paved Highway Shoulders (by Michael P. Ronkin)
- n) E-mail from Justin Lafontaine – Bike Train 2008 – Updates
- o) Media Release (Feb 2008) – The Great Waterfront Trail Adventure!
- p) scbikelaw.com – 10 tips for accident victims
- q) Volunteer List – Toronto International Bicycle Show March 7-9, 2008
- r) Status Report – Bicycle Friendly Awards 2002-2007 (prepared by Marian Landry, Niagara Region Public Health Department) – Feb 14, 2008.
- s) RNBC - Report on Strategic Planning Issues & Process

9. Paul Pattison Presented with Special Award

Ken Forgeron proudly announced that Paul Pattison had been presented with a special award of recognition at the **recent AGM of the Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club** for his significant advocacy role in facilitating and promoting cycling in Niagara. His dedication and volunteer contributions to the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee and the Freewheelers is certainly appreciated.

10. Items for Next Agenda

- AODA Customer Service Standard
 - Status Report – Bicycle Friendly Awards 2002-2007
 - Strategic Planning – Action Items for Objective #2
 - Bicycle Route Mapping Project (using *Google Earth*)
 - Bike Summit 2008 in Toronto! Save the Date - April 25th
- Eric Flora
Dianne Coppola/All
Dianne Coppola/All
Bob Romanuk
Eric Flora

11. Meeting Adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn:
Moved By: Peter Davies
Seconded By: Pat Maloney

12. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 3, 2008
Committee Room #4 - Campbell West - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes Reviewed by: Ken Forgeron/Eric Flora/Dianne Coppola
Meeting Notes Recorded by: Connie Mancuso-Redman