

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES  
Thursday, December 13, 2007  
*Meeting/Christmas Social*  
*Red Onion Eatery & Bar*  
260 Lake Street  
St. Catharines  
6:00 p.m.

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Present:	Brian Baty	-	Regional Councillor (Chair)
	Eric Flora	-	Regional Public Works Department
	Ken Forgeron	-	Regional Planning Department
	Dianne Coppola	-	Regional Public Health Department
	Barbara Henderson & Guest	-	Mayor, Wainfleet/Regional Councillor
	Pat Maloney & Guest	-	Guest
	Paul Pattison & Guest	-	Public-at-Large
	Tim Whittle	-	Niagara Region Police Service
	Frank Pravitz & Guest	-	MTO
	Jan Somerwil	-	Public-at-Large
	Peter Davies & Guest	-	Public-at-Large/Niagara Freewheelers
	Dave Hunt & Guest	-	Public-at-Large/Cycling Ontario Alliance
	Virginia Stewart & Guest	-	Guest
	Connie Mancuso-Redman	-	Regional Public Works Department (Recorder of Meeting Notes)

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1) Adoption of Agenda

*Motion:*  
*To adopt the Agenda of December 13, 2007.*

*Moved By: Jan Somerwil*  
*Seconded By: Paul Pattison*

*Carried*

2) Review of Previous Meeting Notes (November 1, 2007)

Page 9: #6) – RNBC Website and Corporate Requirements

- An inclusion to this item should be the revisions to the RNBC Regional logo.
- The 'Action Items' were deferred and will be discussed at a later date.

3) **Business Arising**

No business arising to report at this time.

4) **Items for Consideration**

a) **Pat Maloney Membership Request to RNBC**

- Council Baty was pleased to inform all members of the request from Pat Maloney to apply for appointment to the RNBC. His resume and application package was quite comprehensive.
- Council Baty asked members for a motion to accept Mr. Maloney's application.

***Motion:***

***To accept the request from Pat Maloney to become a member of the RNBC.***

***Moved By: Paul Pattison***

***Seconded By: Councillor Barbara Henderson***

b) **Secure Staff Bicycle Parking**

- Ken Forgeron at our last meeting discussed the proposal for outside covered storage facility for bikes opposite the cafeteria.
- He has had discussions with Joe Gouthro.
- Budget discussions are ongoing.
- Construction is hoped to begin in 2008.

c) **Confirm 2008 RNBC Meeting Schedule**

- A meeting schedule for 2008 was prepared and distributed to all members for their consideration. It was agreed by all members to accept this schedule (see attached).

d) **Draft RNBC Letterhead**

- Two copies of our new RNBC letterhead, prepared by Connie Mancuso-Redman, were distributed to all members present for their opinion.
- Regional protocol requires that our RNBC logo incorporate the Niagara Region logo, as well.
- Our members present at the meeting decided between the two designs.
- The preferred design is attached to the meeting notes for your information.

e) **Grassy Brook Road (Niagara Falls)**

- Tim Whittle reported on the fact that no public meetings were arranged concerning the road closing of Grassy Brook Road. This road will no longer be accessible to cyclists.
- There are other examples in various municipalities where the new development has accommodated cyclists. How has this been investigated by the developer?

**Action Item:**

***Eric Flora to follow-up with staff on the Region's comments provided for this particular development.***

**5) Task Force Reports****Engineering Task Force****a) Collier Road/Richmond Road – City of Thorold**

- The City of Thorold is looking at undertaking the Richmond Road upgrade project in 2008 and 2009.
- Collier Road from Beaverdams Road to St. David's Road is officially now Regional Road 56; therefore, the previously completed Environmental Assessment (EA) of this area, which includes bike lanes for Collier Road (Confederation Avenue to Ross Avenue). Regional staff will need to review this and have it programmed into the Capital Budget.
- The City of Thorold is considering construction work on Richmond Road to include bike lanes.
- The Region is now in a position to do improvements to the intersection of St. David's Road and Burleigh Hill/Collier Road.

**b) East Main Street (Streetscaping Project) – City of Welland**

- This City project is looking at streetscaping improvements (bump-outs, bike lanes) between Hellems Avenue and King Street. The project is under review and to be undertaken in 2008.
- Paul Pattison and Frank Pravitz have copies of the project drawings and will provide comments directly to the City.

**c) Multi-Purpose Trail (Next Phase – Concession 4 to East West Line) – Town of NOTL**

- Members of this committee have issues on the pavement markings for the existing section of trail. A review of this has been undertaken by the design group involved.
- A public meeting was arranged concerning the next stage of this project, but the Region/RNBC was not notified. However, Regional staff and RNBC members have been requested to provide comments to the Town.

**d) Thorold Stone Road Extension – City of Niagara Falls**

- Thorold Stone Road Environmental Assessment (EA) is now underway.
- The consultant is looking at how Thorold Stone Road can be extended between Stanley Avenue and Victoria Avenue through the former Cytec lands.
- The Notice of Study Commencement has been received by Paul Pattison.

**e) Transportation Activity Report**

- A copy of the Transportation Activity Report was e-mailed to all RNBC members on December 3, 2007.

f) **Thorold Road (Rice Road to South Pelham Road) – City of Welland**

- Notice of Study Completion filed.
- Comments to be received until January 9, 2008.

g) **Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake Transportation Master Plan**

- PWA 168-2007 approved by PPWC on December 12, 2007.
- Copies of the report are available, if requested.

h) **Bikeways Funding for Local Municipalities**

- \$200,000 has been identified in the Region's Capital Budget, subject to approval to facilitate bikeways facilities on local roads, which are part of the Regional Bikeways Network.

i) **ITE Journal/November 2007**

- **Road Diet Handbook: Setting Trends for Livable Streets** – the Region to order two (2) copies of this book. The recommendations contained within the book to be reviewed by design staff for future rehabilitation/reconstruction projects.

**Education and Enforcement Task Force**

- No report at this time

**Encouragement Task Force**

- No report at this time

**Policy Task Force**

a) **Fort Erie and Port Colborne Official Plans**

- Ken Forgeron reported on Fort Erie's and Port Colborne's Official Plans to include on bicycle transportation supporting policies.

**6. Items for Information**

a) **Highlights of "Beyond Regeneration" Waterfront Trust Conference**

- Dave Hunt and Ken Forgeron reported on the Waterfront Trust Conference in September, which focused on future work (a summary report was previously distributed).
- The conference was well supported by dignitaries.
- 250 km are scenic side trails.
- Funding is an issue for future projects that involve closing gaps in the trail system.

**b) City of London Bicycling Safety Posters**

- Ken Forgeron reported on the City of London's bike posters, which we are free to use.
- Posters are in pdf. format. The Education and Enforcement Task Force is encouraged to review them for possible use in Niagara (Action Item).
- Ken Forgeron recommended that one revision might be made to show where a cyclist should be positioned at intersections to avoid injury when buses and trucks are nearby.

**c) Highlights from the Municipal Bicycling Conference in Waterloo**

- Summary notes from this conference will be distributed at a later date.

**d) Strategic Plan Discussion – January 10, 2008 Meeting**

- Dianne Coppola suggested the next step for this Committee would be to identify goals/objectives for each of the 3 strategic priorities as identified in the draft report.
- She will be creating a couple of templates to help guide this discussion, in the new year.

**e) Jan Somerwil Retiring from RNBC**

- Ken Forgeron announced the retirement of Jan Somerwil from the RNBC. Jan has been an active and valuable member of this Committee for many years. His input and enthusiasm will be missed by all.

**f) 'Share the Road' Pins**

- Ken Forgeron and Eric Flora distributed 'Share the Road' pins to all members present, in appreciation for all their efforts over the year in making this Committee a very successful endeavor.

**g) Items for Distribution**

Ken Forgeron assembled packages of information, which included:

- RNBC 2008 Meeting Dates.
- Letter from Councillor Baty (dated November 20, 2007) – Re: 2008 Bike Train Initiative – confirming our support for the expansion of the Bike Train Initiative in 2008.
- Conference and Trail Ridge Highlights – Beyond Regeneration: The Trail Ahead – Waterfront Regeneration Trust (WRT) – Sept 19 & 20, 2007 – Toronto, Mississauga and Pickering.
- Welcome – Waterfront Trail on Regional Road 87 (Lakeshore Road) – Class Environmental Assessment Study – Public Information Centre No. 1 – October 27, 2007.
- Newspaper Article by John Swart (December 8, 2007) – 'Bicycles gaining steam as environmental, economical factors begin to loom larger'.

**7. Items for Next Agenda**

- Overview of Council's Draft Business Plan & Update on Status
- Strategic Plan – Next Steps

**8. Date of Next Meeting:  
Thursday, February 21, 2008  
Committee Room #4  
Regional Headquarters – Campbell West**