

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, February 14, 2002
Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Brian McMullan	- Regional Councillor, Chair
Rob Gabriel	- Regional Councillor
Jon Somerwil	- Public at Large
David Hunt	- Public at Large
Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
John Helm	- Niagara Freewheelers
Bill Crux	- Public at Large
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Bob Romanuk	- Public at Large/Niagara Falls Bikeways Committee
Donna Kalailieff	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Bob Johnson (Transportation)	- Regional Niagara Public Works

Before the meeting commenced, Marian Landry introduced Donna Kalailieff of the Regional Niagara Public Health Department - Injury Prevention Division, who will be replacing Christina Bradley as an alternate from Public Health.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

Motion:

To accept Agenda, as amended.

Moved by: Jon Somerwil

Seconded by: Bill Crux

Carried

2. Review of Meeting Notes of January 10, 2002

Ken Forgeron reported that on Page 2, "Encouragement Task Force", that the City of Toronto "Cycling Association" should read "Cycling Committee".

Bob Johnson reported that the Glenridge Avenue road improvements Public Open House, as part of the Environmental Assessment Process, will be held Wednesday, March 20 at Regional Headquarters in the afternoon and evening, although no definite times have been established. The RNBC Engineering Task Force will be considering its comments at an upcoming meeting in late February.

Motion:

To accept RNBC Meeting Notes of January 10, 2002, as amended.

3.City of St. Catharines Official Plan Review

- Ken Forgeron distributed a copy of his letter to the City with respect to proposed mapping and policies on bicycling in the Official Plan.
- John Helm suggested a memo be sent to the City suggesting they use as many Regional Roads as possible on their network. A number of new roads may be transferred to the local municipality. The Region should consider providing funding to local municipalities for bicycle facilities.

4.Task Force Reports

Education Task Force

Tim Whittle reported that the Task Force will focus its efforts in 2002 on adult education and safety. Accident statistics support this direction.

Encouragement Task Force

- Donna has revived a program called "LAPS, a copy of the pamphlet is attached. She is looking for a cover of the pamphlet. Would like it to be used in Children's Safety Village.
- The RNBC logo will be included on the pamphlet;
- A separate kit will be made for events in the spring;
- Distributed "Safety Resource Kit" at Safety Village and other events and schools in the spring.
- Any comments on the brochure are welcome.

Motion:

That the RNBC endorse the preparation and distribution of the LAPS pamphlet at community events and schools, including Bike Week.

Moved by Paul Pattison

Seconded by: Bob Romanuk

Carried

- Have 3 new members working on the Encouragement Task Force;
- The plan for Bike Week is bigger and stronger than last year;
- More funding will be needed for advertising
- The Bike Friendly award program is targeted for September;
- Velo-Ontario is interested in posting our Bike Week activities on their web site.
- Several Events were announced:

- Niagara Falls Fun Day – June 1
- Road Safety Challenge – May 4
- Greater Niagara Circle Route Trek – May 4
- A Grimsby Event – May 25 (Bill Rashleigh will provide details at a later date)
- Bike Week – June 1 – 9 (Also Environmental Week)
- See Tim Whittle for details on the following:
 - Tour of Pelham – April 7
 - Niagara Classic – May 19
 - Lake to Lake Ride – May 20
 - Buffalo Bicycle Club Stage Races (early July)
 - Welland Criterium – June 6
 - Port Colborne Criterium – August 5
 - Provincial Cycling Championships – August 4

Engineering Task Force

Although no meeting was held last month, Frank Pravitz' did provide a tentative agenda (see attached) re future meeting re Glenridge Avenue E.A.

- Some discussion took place on a possible compromise to accommodate an “off-road trail” (3 metre) and “on-road” bicycle space (2 foot edge line) along RR55 between Virgil and the Old Town, Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- Bob Johnson said the Town needs to make a formal request to the Region to consider a proposal. This is not a Regional priority project;
- Bob estimated the cost for bike lanes to be \$40,000 km/side, \$80,000 for both sides;
- The Task force will continue to review and make recommendations to the RNBC, but final decision is to wait until after the consultant's report. Niagara-on-the-Lake will need Regional approval because it is on the Regional Right-of-Way.
- MMM will be asked to consider the “life cycle costs” in their recommendations on whether to widen the road for bicycle facilities or not.

5. Ken handed out a proposed Regional Cycling Cycling questionnaire to be given out at the Bike Show:

- Consultants want to know if Committee can do tabulation of results or have a student;
- Marian has a Brock Student who could possibly do the analysis;
- Comments on the survey to be sent to Marian via e-mail and Marian will send it to print (discuss with Eric first)
- Print 1000
- Marina to consider preparing a promotional sign. Tim Whittle will contact Steve Bauer Bike Tours;

- Check with Betsy Foster before Bike Week re shipment to Toronto
- It was agreed that the RNBC would contribute some funds for the promotional draw prize. Ken agreed to send the digital file to Marian to print, as revised.

6. Toronto Bike Show

- Bob Romanuk thanked volunteers; Bob will e-mail confirmation of volunteers; needs one for Friday evening.
- Passes will be available at the entranceway;
- Ken will assist Betsy Foster in assembling the RNBC display and booth materials for delivery to Toronto.

7. May 4th Joint Meeting

- Ken will try to change date to May 11th due to conflicts of members of RNBC and bike events;
- Items for Velo-Ontario meeting:
 - Bike Master Plan
 - Bike Week Events
 - Bicycle accident statistics
 - Bicycle friendly awards.
- There was some discussion about the design and use of helmets;

Motion:

That RNBC endorse helmets that have locking guards to ensure a proper fit

Moved by Bob Romanuk

Seconded by: John Helm

Carried

8. Information Items for Distribution

- Niagara Falls Dec. 6/01 Minutes (See referenced to Thorold Stone Road reconstruction; Bikeways Study; Greater Niagara Circle Route; Stanley Avenue)
- Updated list of Bicycling Reference Library (this is attached to the October 13th joint meeting notes);
- Peter Warwick e-mail pertaining to hiking throughout the world;
- Road Closing information pertaining to Lakeshore Road in Niagara-On-the-Lake;
- Draft Regional Transportation Strategy – approved by Council
- Suggested Policy Changes for inclusion in the Bikeways Master Plan;
- Thorold O.P. proposals affecting Thorold-Fonthill spur.
- Minutes of October 13th joint meeting of bicycling committees.

9. Other Business

John Helm reported that the cost for 128,000 copies of a region-wide bicycling newsletter would be approximately \$20,000 (\$15,000 – printing and \$5,000 – distribution cost) and therefore it is too expensive a venture for the RNBC to be involved with.

Regional Environmental Awards

- Ken Forgeron distributed copies of 2 pamphlets for young people and group/individual environmental awards. If anyone would like to nominate someone who meets the criteria, please contact Ken.

Velo-Ontario

Dave Hunt reported on the recent Velo Ontario meeting. A fall conference is being planned. A web-site has been designed. They are considering “Incorporation” status. Contacts are being made with municipalities on the Provincial Cycling Network.

Utilitarian Cycling

Jon Somerwil indicated that the RNBC is giving little attention to utilitarian cycling, just recreational cyclists. He believes that utilitarian is more important. The incentives used in Holland should be considered

The following comments were made:

- Bike to Work Week will include some utilitarian events;
- Encouragement should start at home – Region should build some showers;
- Bikes are being used for utilitarian purposes from a review of “accident statistics”; Also, auto expenses are going up and therefore bikes are more attractive.
- Safety Village – kids put in little car?
- The province has designated a voluntary car free day in May, perhaps it should be a mandatory car-free day.
- Should have at least one item re utilitarian cycling at each meeting of the RNBC;
- “Smart Growth” idea supports cycling
- Opportunities exist in the Regional Transportation Strategy, Bike Plan and Smart Growth initiatives to facilitate more utilitarian cycling.
- The Chair is going to request Regional Council to endorse a Car Free Day, with the date to be identified from Bike Week.

10.Slide Show

Jon's slide show to be deferred to the March 14, 2002 RNBC meeting.

11. **Next RNBC Meeting**

Thursday, March 14, 2002

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

Meeting Notes Taken by

Dave Hunt

Meeting Notes Typed by:

Jody Head

Reviewed & Amended by Ken Forgeron, Regional Planning.