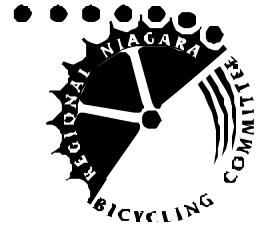


REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, January 10, 2002
Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Rob Gabriel	- Regional Councillor, (Acting Chair)
Jon Somerwil	- Public at Large
David Hunt	- Public at Large
Bill Rashleigh	- Public at Large
Dwight Alguire	- Public at Large
Bill Crux	- Public at Large
Hank Bauer	- Public at Large
John Reep	- Public at Large
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Services
Bob Romanuk	- Public at Large/Niagara Falls Bikeways Committee
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health Department
Randy Benn	- Encouragement Task Force
John Helm	- Niagara Freewheelers
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Bob Johnson (Transportation)	- Regional Niagara Public Works
Jody Head	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Regrets:

Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
Dave Arnott	- Public at Large

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: Bill Crux

Seconded by: Jon Somerwil

Carried

2. Review of Meeting Notes of December 13, 2001

Dave Hunt was thanked for doing such a great job on last month's meeting notes, which were approved as circulated.

Motion:

To accept RNBC Meeting Notes of December 13, 2001.

Moved by: Bob Romanuk

Seconded by: Hank Bauer

Carried

3.Task Force Reports

Engineering Task Force

Dave Hunt reported there was no meeting held last month.

Education Task Force

Tim Whittle reported there was no meeting held last month, however there will be a meeting this month and annual statistics will be reviewed and reported back to our Committee.

Encouragement Task Force

Marian Landry apologized for arriving late from an Encouragement Task Force meeting that began at 6:30 p.m. Marian introduced Randy Benn, who is a new volunteer on the Encouragement Task Force. The meeting focused on Bike Week and she hopes to enhance what was done last year. She feels more promotion of Bike Week is required and is looking for more ways to market it. She reminded everyone that last year, Bike Week was marketed through flyers, Cogeco Cable, radio and the RNBC website. She hopes to advertise in newspapers this year. She will be contacting the American League of Cyclists and the City of Toronto Cycling Association to get information on their Bicycle Friendly Award. Ken suggested Will Wallace be contacted.

4.Business Arising

Offroad Trail – Regional Road 55

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is asking the Region to financially support an off-road multi-use trail on the southeast side of Regional Road 55 from Virgil to NOTL. Funds would be transferred from expenditures on paved shoulders that are slated for Regional Road 55 as part of future reconstruction.

Jon Somerwil advised the Committee that he intends to sit in on a local committee, as a private citizen, not as a representative of the RNBC, concerning the development of the trail and wanted to know if our Committee would see this as a conflict. It was agreed this would not be a conflict.

Frank Pravitz has met with Town representatives to discuss an alternative strategy that involves on-road and off-road facilities. However, Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan will be consulted.

Glenridge Avenue

Bob Johnson explained that the reconstruction of Glenridge Avenue between Lockhart and Westchester has been broken down into two sections, with the first phase of the project from Lockhart to Glendale, already having had its first set of public meetings. Bob explained there is no problem with bicycle lanes being put there. With respect to the second section between Glenridge and Westchester, it is the Region's intent to provide bicycle lanes, where possible. Potential problems that are foreseen will be the railway bridge, but the intent is to paint some edge lines. Another problem will be neighbourhood concerns with respect to property acquisition and tree cutting. The Region will provide bike facilities as much as possible since it is identified as being on the network. The Public Information Centre for the second phase is scheduled to be held some time in February. Ron Tripp in the Public Works Department can be contacted for more information.

5. Toronto Bike Show

Ken Forgeron reported that Betsy Foster from NETC has arranged a booth at the Bike Show. Unfortunately, we were unable to get a booth located by the Hamilton or Burlington Bike Committee booths, although it is in the immediate vicinity. Dave Hunt inquired if Velo Ontario can display pamphlets and a map explaining what they are doing. Ken said he didn't think there would be a problem.

Ken reported that NETC is reprinting 30,000 copies of the trip-tic style on-road bicycle map. Betsy suggested two changes in the Jordan and Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake area. It has been suggested that since public parking is minimal in both areas, the map should show where people can park their vehicles and start bicycling. Bob Romanuk will review the proper wording changes for the map. It was also agreed 10,000 more copies be printed of the 2001 version of the off-road bicycle map.

More volunteers are needed for the show. Please contact Bob Romanuk.

6. St. Catharines Official Plan and Bicycling

Ken Forgeron reported that the City of St. Catharines is in the process of preparing new bicycling policies to include in its Official Plan. They are asking us to provide them with information concerning the trails, policies etc. With the Committees permission, Ken would like to respond to the request. Tim Whittle commented on previous work conducted by the City's former Bicycle Committee. Ken advised that the previous Committee did not complete its policy work. Ken has kept all the notes and proposed

policies for future reference. Bob Johnson indicated the City of St. Catharines is reluctant to enter into a Transportation Study Plan. Future meetings are planned.

7. Other Business

Jon Somerwil said he had seen some bicycle maps where air photography was used as a base. He said the maps clearly showed land use in the built-up areas, and rural areas. He suggested we consider this approach in the future. Bob Johnson explained that the Region does have aerial photographs and suggested this matter be referred to the Encouragement Task Force.

Jon also suggested that more emphasis needs to be given to encouraging utilitarian cycling in Niagara. Parking at buildings is an issue.

John Helm presented some maps that were picked up at tourism centres in Pennsylvania. He suggested that our Committee look into placing some of our maps on display at the new Gateways across Niagara for distribution. Ken Forgeron will speak to NETC about providing additional maps when they are reprinted.

John Helm suggested the Niagara Region put out an annual newsletter for cyclists, similar to those sent out to residents by the Regional Waste Management Division. It could promote safe cycling, events in the Region, show locations where people can pick up maps and raise awareness of cycling in the Community etc. Ken Forgeron asked John Helm if the Niagara Freewheelers would be interested in partnering with the RNBC to produce the newsletter. John will discuss this at their next meeting.

Bob Romanuk suggested another Committee be established to deal with these type of promotional issues. Anyone wishing to sit on the new Committee is asked to contact Bob Romanuk.

Bob Romanuk reported that the website has been updated, but asked that everyone review it and let him know of any changes. Ken Forgeron agreed to provide Bob with an electronic copy of the Regional policies on bicycling.

8. Next RNBC Meeting

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

Meeting Notes Prepared by
Jody Head, Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Reviewed by Ken Forgeron, Regional Planning.