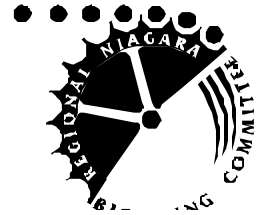


# REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, January 11, 2007  
Committee Room #4  
7:00 p.m.

## Present:

Brian Baty	- Regional Councillor (Chair)
Bob Romanuk	- Public-at-Large
Peter Davies	- Public-at-Large and Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club
Paul Pattison	- Public-at-Large
Virginia Hatch Stewart	- Guest
John Reep	- Public-at-Large
Tim Whittle	- Niagara Regional Police Service
Gregg Dame	- Public-at-Large and Port Colborne Trails and Bikeways Committee
Dave Hunt	- Public-at-Large/Cycle Ontario Alliance
Gwen Speranzini	- Facilitator
Dianne Coppola	- Regional Niagara Public Health
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Eric Flora	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Julie Bittner	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

The meeting commenced at 7:01 p.m.

Councillor Baty announced that he will likely continue with the RNBC for the first year, but due to other priorities, he may not be able to continue after this time. However, he mentioned that Mayor Henderson from Wainfleet is interested in joining the committee. He has also spoken to Mayor D'Angela from Thorold who maybe interested in joining, but would like to shadow a few meetings first.

## 1. Adoption of Agenda

### ***Motion:***

***To accept the agenda of January 11, 2007 as revised.***

***Moved by: Jan Somerwil***

***Seconded by: Bob Romanuk***

***Carried***

With the addition of the agenda items listed below, the agenda was adopted:

- International Bicycle Show (Tim Whittle)
- Bikes on Trains (Paul Pattison)

## 2. Review of Previous Meeting Notes (November 2, 2006)

Mr. Forgeron said that on page 2, under item Bike Racks on Buses, the notes should be revised to say, "Mr. Flora reported that Ken Forgeron has spoken to Virginia Hatch Stewart regarding a possible pilot project within the City of Niagara Falls **and the City of St. Catharines.**"

Councillor Baty said that he would write a letter to both Brock University and Niagara College Student Unions encouraging them to involve their students in pursuing the issue of bike racks on buses to their campuses. This issue is a priority for 2007 as expressed by St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan in his "100 Day Plan". **(Action Item)**

While reviewing the meeting notes, Mr. Pattison noted that the Active Transportation Committee in Pelham was to have met in December and he asked if anyone could provide an update on that meeting. Mr. Forgeron said that a report would be submitted to Pelham Council later in January endorsing the formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee and introducing a proposed Active Transportation Plan for the Town.

***Motion:***

***To accept and approve the meeting notes of November 2, 2006.***

***Moved by: Dave Hunt***

***Seconded by: Jan Somerwil***

***Carried***

**3. Business Arising**

The Committee was provided updates on a number of "Action Items" which arose out of the revised November 2, 2006 meeting notes:

- Mr. Whittle reported that he would be receiving a revised copy of the safety game CD and would bring a copy to the next RNBC meeting. **(Action Item)** This game can be used at various venues that the RNBC attends like the Toronto Bike Show.
- Ms. Coppola's update on the Healthy Eating/Active Living Conference is listed under Task Force Reports.

**4. RNBC Strategic Planning Sessions**

Councillor Baty re-introduced Gwen Speranzini to the Committee. She reviewed with the Committee the strategic planning session notes which were distributed to members. Some of the work completed at the November sessions included:

- A list of committee successes and accomplishments, for example, the development of safety brochures, Regional funding for bicycle lanes on local roads on the Regional Bicycling Network and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Bicycling Map.
- Worksheets were developed outlining who the RNBC's "clients" are, for example, cycling tourists and Regional Council
- Possible RNBC partnerships, for example, include local municipalities and other transit committees
- What might assist our work, for example, supportive land use policies and Public Health initiatives such as TREKZONE
- What might impede our work, for example, budget issues
- Additional goals and objectives not listed in the previous categories
- What do we want to stop doing, for example, stop having lengthy meetings
- How do we know we are being successful. Ms. Speranzini suggested that this particular list requires more thought.

Ms. Speranzini said that the next step is to focus on more specific priorities, develop Action Plans and to take a report to the Planning and Public Works Committee. Frank Pravitz has drafted a summary which is a good basis for the report. Mr. Flora suggested that Mr. Pravitz and another member (eg. Virginia Hatch Stewart) get together to start completing the report in order for it to be submitted to Committee. Councillor Baty said that the report should be submitted in either the first or second quarter, but suggested waiting and involving Councillors Henderson and D'Angela. Councillor Baty asked whether there would be any benefit in taking the report first to the cycling clubs to get their input. A discussion was held and it was decided to take the report to the Freewheelers for their input. **(Action Item)**

Ms. Speranzini said that now what the RNBC needs to do is make logic out of all this information one more time. For the next meeting Ms. Speranzini suggested developing the "operational plans". **(Action Item)**

#### **5. Citizen Appointments to the RNBC**

Mr. Forgeron brought up the issue of whether we should be advertising for citizen appointments to the RNBC now that it is a new term of Council. Councillor Baty suggested waiting a couple of meetings before we do this until more certainty has been established through the Strategic Plan on what the RNBC will be doing. Also, further discussion is needed on whether the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee and the RNBC should be combined in some fashion to create a new committee.

#### **6. Mountain Road EA**

Mr. Flora reported that a Public Information Centre (PIC) was held in November. At that PIC one alternative suggested included having a roundabout at Mewburn Road. Mr. Flora said that currently the Ministry of Transportation is not in favour of this suggestion; however, some Councillors and residents are in support of this proposal.

#### **7. St. David's Road Pedestrian Study**

A PIC was held on January 11 at Brock University for this study. This particular PIC was specifically geared towards the students.

The current preferred alternative is to have an off road multi-use facility along the north side of St. David's Road from Burleigh Hill to the St. David's Road/406 off ramp. Then a three (3) metre centre median section between the ramps with signals at either end and then an off road multi-use facility along the north side of St. David's Road. The Region will consider on-road bike lanes where their section of St. David's Road is to be resurfaced within the next few years, subject to Council approval. The centre area will have one metre high concrete barriers to protect cyclists and walkers. Mr. Flora said that the CITE organization is having a conference in Toronto in May and he will inquire about possibly making a presentation on how this project is being designed. Mr. Hunt suggested that another venue to bring this issue forth is the Ontario Trails Conference which is being held in the Niagara Region this year.

## **8. Queenston/Lewiston Bridge Plaza Project**

Mr. Flora said that he has been told that representatives from the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission would like to make a presentation about the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge Plaza project to the Planning and Public Works Committee or Regional Council before attending an RNBC meeting. Once he is aware of the date that the presentation will take place he will advise the RNBC. **(Action Item)**

## **9. Bridge Demolition of Glendale Avenue Structure**

Mr. Flora reported that the Region would be removing the Glendale Avenue (over Old York Road) bridge structure, located just north of the QEW/Glendale Avenue interchange in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The work is currently scheduled to be undertaken in May 2007. The bridge structure removal will necessitate the closure of a portion of Regional Road 89 (Glendale Avenue). Currently, it is anticipated that a five day closure of Glendale Avenue will take place during the work week, but will be re-opened to two-way traffic during the weekend.

## **10. Niagara River Greenway Plan**

Report DPD 12-2007, Draft Niagara River Greenway Plan (Western New York) was approved by the Planning and Public Works Committee on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Julie and Ken can e-mail this report to members. The Plan outlines a number of proposed activities including cycling improvements on the US side. The Plan itself can be viewed at the following web address: [www.niagaragreenway.org](http://www.niagaragreenway.org).

## **11. Task Force Reports**

### **Encouragement**

Ms. Coppola reported on the Healthy Eating/Active Living Conference. Some of the topics included:

- Creating Healthy Workplaces
- Healthy eating and active living initiatives for children
- Healthy weight in children and youth

Ms. Coppola said that there was a lot of diversity in the poster presentations and in the range of topics presented at the conference. However, she reported that she did not find really any new information worth bringing back.

Ms. Coppola distributed copies of the Bicycle Friendly Awards nomination package. Nominations must be received before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, Bike to Work Week will be at the end of May. The theme is, "Bike to Get There!" Media packages are being developed and the launch venue is being discussed.

Mr. Hunt said that he was impressed with the level of support the conference received. Some of the attendees included the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Health Promotion.

Bob Romanuk reported on the number of hits on the RNBC website in 2006. There were 50% more hits than in 2006 which is quite significant. A summary of this activity will be provided at the next meeting. **(Action Item)**

### **Engineering**

- Mr. Flora reported that parking was removed on Carlton Street between Bunting Road and Welland Canals Parkway due to the new configuration of the roadway. The roadway is now a two lane cross section with exclusive bike lanes. Later in 2007, the issue of parking will be re-visited on Carlton between Lake Street and Geneva.
- Parking was removed on Regional Road 102 (Stanley Avenue) from Whirlpool Road to Regional Road 61 (Stamford Townline). The roadway was recently reconstructed and is a two lane cross section with exclusive bike lanes. In order for the bicycle lanes to operate safely, parking along the roadway was removed.
- Mr. Flora reported on a Notice of Study Commencement for the widening of Fourth Avenue between Highway 406 and First St. Louth in St. Catharines. A public information centre will be held for this project in the new future.

### **Education and Enforcement**

Tim Whittle noted that five bike rodeos will be held in the spring in Grimsby and Fort Erie. Mr. Whittle would like volunteers from the Committee to help with the rodeos. **(Action Item)**

### **Policy**

Ken Forgeron indicated that Port Colborne and Fort Erie have adopted new Official Plans. They have been submitted to the Region for approval. The Committee's comments on bicycling policies are required. **(Action Item)**

## **12. New Business**

### **Toronto International Bike Show**

Mr. Whittle asked if the RNBC would be participating again this year. Mr. Forgeron said that we would be and he would be asking for volunteers to staff the booth at a later date. Mr. Forgeron indicated that our booth will have more interactive elements (eg. computer based bicycle safety game) and also will feature the pilot Niagara/Toronto bike train initiative.

**13. Items for Distribution**

- Bicycling the Utilitarian Way by Jan Somewil. Mr. Somerwil has requested that Committee members review the information he has assembled and come prepared to discuss concrete actions that the RNBC can work on in the future. Mr. Forgeron suggested that such items should be reference in the strategic plan exercise if required (**Action Item**).

**14. Items for Next Agenda**

None suggested.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

The next RNBC meeting will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> in **Council Chambers** at Regional Headquarters.

***MOTION:***

***To adjourn the January 11, 2007 RNBC meeting.***

***Moved by: Paul Pattison***

***Seconded by: Dave Hunt***

***Carried***

Meeting adjourned at 9:26.

Meeting Notes Taken by:  
Julie Bittner, RNBC Recording Secretary  
Public Works Department

Reviewed by:  
Ken Forgeron, Senior Planner  
Regional Planning Department