

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES



Meeting of Thursday, October 9, 2003
Committee Room #4
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Brian McMullan	- Regional Councillor (Chair)
John Fisher	- Walker Industries (Guest)
Bob Romanuk	- Niagara Falls Trails and Bikeways Committee
Jan Somerwil	- Public at Large
Bill Rashleigh	- Public at Large
Bill Crux	- Public at Large
Peter Davies	- Niagara Freewheelers
Frank Pravitz	- Ministry of Transportation
Tim Whittle	- Regional Niagara Police Service
Marian Landry	- Regional Niagara Public Health
Ken Forgeron	- Regional Niagara Planning
Phil Bergen	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)
Julie Bittner	- Regional Niagara Public Works (Transportation)

Regrets:

Paul Pattison	- Public at Large
Dave Hunt	- Public at Large

1. Adoption of Agenda

<p>Motion: To accept the agenda. Moved by: Bill Rashleigh Seconded by: Bob Romanuk</p>	<p>Carried</p>
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2. Review of Meeting Notes of September 11, 2003

<p>Motion: To adopt the RNBC Meeting Notes of September 11, 2003. Moved by: Bill Rashleigh Seconded by: Jan Somerwil</p>	<p>Carried</p>
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3. Business Arising

P. Bergen told the Committee that he is currently working on the cost breakdown by municipality (i.e. implementation of the new network) for the Bicycle Master Plan, which was requested by the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee. The breakdown should be completed in a week or two.

K. Forgeron said that M. Landry would be arriving later in the evening and would like to discuss the Bicycle Friendly Awards that will be presented at Regional Council on November 6, 2003.

Also, K. Forgeron said that the Committee needs to discuss when the bicycle map should be presented to Council.

4. Proposed Walker Landfill Expansion: Cycling Impacts

J. Fisher explained to the Committee that the landfill location currently has about six more years of capacity remaining. Walker Industries would like to expand the landfill in order to add another 20-25 years of disposal capacity. Mr. Fisher explained that increased capacity does not constitute much more activity in and out of the facility (i.e. 10% - 20% more truck traffic). Currently, there are approximately two hundred trucks on a busy day going into the landfill.

J. Fisher explained that the site only accepts solid, non-hazardous waste which is broken down into the following two categories: residential waste, which makes up about 1/3 of what is picked up and the remaining 2/3rds which is picked up is industrial, commercial and institutional waste. About 2/3rds of the waste originates outside Niagara and 1/3 is from within.

K. Forgeron asked what the split is in terms of truck traffic that comes out of the north entrance as opposed to the south entrance. J. Fisher replied that the split is approximately 2/3rd to 1/3rd.

In February 2003 Walker Industries created a committee comprised of neighbours and representatives from the Region, City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Escarpment Commission to review and provide comments on the Terms of Reference and future EA status.

Mr. Fisher reported that the single biggest issue they have heard about from neighbours is that they would like to have alternate haul routes looked at. Currently, the primary haul route comes off of the QEW and onto Taylor Road at Glendale. Some truck traffic also comes down Townline Road from Thorold Stone Road and from Mountain Road.

T. Whittle said that some time ago it was decided that the bike network would be changed from Thorold Stone Road to Mountain Road. He was concerned because at some point the QEW will be shut down for major reconstruction of Sand Plant Hill and Mountain Road would be used by Walkers for access to the quarry from the QEW. J. Fisher responded that he would be surprised if all the trucks came onto Mountain rather than from Taylor Road. Walkers recognizes that Mountain Road is a substandard road and would have to be improved before the trucks would use it to that degree. He recognized that there is a bike route and reminded the Committee that now is the time to "chime in" on the process as there are multiple considerations to be given to all the different routes. The Committee should document all of our concerns and comments

and provide them to K. Forgeron. K. Forgeron will provide comments on bicycle-related issues as part of his department's review of the draft Terms of Reference (**Action Item**).

T. Whittle asked if the new proposal calls for a new quarry entrance. J. Fisher said that the proposal does call for a new entrance to the south quarry on Beechwood Road.

B. Romanuk said that he understood that there would be some trails proposed through the future quarry property. Mr. Fisher explained that some of their land can provide added value to the neighbourhood through trail development. Neighbours now walk along a diverted creek bed and have suggested upgrading the trail system. The creek side will accommodate a path of crushed stone and eventually interpretive information will be added along the path. Mr. Fisher suggested having Alison Braithwaite contact the Committee to provide more information as to what is being planned for the creek.

Motion:

To receive John Fisher's presentation and to authorize a letter outlining our concerns and ask that they be considered as part of the EA process.

Moved by: Bob Romanuk

Seconded by: Bill Crux

Carried

5. Participation at World Cycling Championships

K. Forgeron reported that there were about 34 volunteers, including members of the RNBC and Freewheelers, helping staff the Region's booth at the World Cycling Championships in Hamilton. B. Rashleigh reported that there had been a steady flow of people, both cyclists and non-cyclists, stopping by the booth. The new bicycle map has been a popular item and the Region is requesting a dollar donation in return for a map. K. Forgeron said that it didn't appear that anyone minded donating \$1.00. K. Forgeron thanked both Phil Bergen and Gary Hardy from NETC for their help in setting up the booth.

6. Distribution of New Bicycle Map

There are 25,000 maps printed. The Committee needs to decide how it will be disseminated and whether there should be a charge for the map. P. Bergen reported that the NETC would be helping distribute the map. F. Pravitc has had discussions with other organizations regarding the cost of their maps. He said that Toronto marks "free" on their maps; however, Ottawa has a suggested retail value of \$3.00 on theirs. F. Pravitc said that there doesn't seem to be a problem in terms of charging for the map within other organizations. P. Bergen reminded the Committee that we are bound by a licensing agreement with DMTI that any profit derived must be shared. However, B. McMullan said that we are looking more at true cost recovery to sustain the project and map reprinting. F. Pravitc discussed some practical issues as to how, where and when the donations would be requested for the maps. Charging for the map might not be

allowed at the annual Toronto International Bike show. Also, the Committee had discussed providing maps to both Liberty! Bicycle and Bike Fit at no charge. What about for other bike shops? Would we ask them to pay up front for the maps, request donations, allow them to sell maps or merely give them away?

K. Forgeron said that in the past the NETC has played a major role in distributing RNBC maps. He felt that it was important to have them involved once again as the NETC deals daily with day-to-day requests for maps and information and they have a distribution process in place when requests are made. He suggested that at big events, (e.g. Toronto International Bike Show), we could just ask for a \$1.00 donation as is being done at the World Cycling Championships in Hamilton.

B. Romanuk reminded the Committee that the map, at some point, will be available to download free of charge from the Regional website. If only a specific portion of the map was needed, that portion could be printed off.

Currently, if anyone is looking for a copy of the map, they should be directed to the NETC.

B. McMullan suggested providing free copies of the map to those individuals or organizations who paid for advertising space. T. Whittle asked about those organizations who could not afford to buy advertising space on the map. B. McMullan said that in those cases, perhaps these organizations would be willing to place a can or jar on the counter and ask people to make a donation, where possible, in exchange for a map. This would be done strictly on the honor system. T. Whittle said that a uniform donation amount should be included on a standard design. B. Romanuk suggested including the RNBC logo on the can. The Committee agreed to have one of the RNBC Task Forces work on the issue of uniform collection signage (**Action Item**).

P. Bergen reported to the Committee that he had entered the new map in a GIS map competition.

B. McMullan suggested presenting the map to either Council or meetings of the Public Works and Planning Committees.

F. Pravitz thanked a number of individuals who were involved in the preparation of the map; specifically, Councillor McMullan who championed the project and lined up the resources to get everyone involved, B. Johnson for committing resources – most notably Phil Bergen - to the project, Nathan Hercanuck (Public Works) for his GIS expertise and for putting in many hours working on the project, Paul Pattison for assisting F. Pravitz and spending an entire day going through various roads north of Ridgeway in order to make sure that they were correct on the map, and the Niagara Freewheelers (e.g. Tom Bailey) for providing some of the raw data for the map.

B. McMullan remarked that the map was a team effort with contributions from many people. He also thanked F. Pravitz for his involvement in the project.

P. Davies said that he will take the map to the B & B Association in NOTL looking for feedback as to whether their members might be willing to pay \$1.00 for map and then they would have the map to give away to their clients.

7. Distribution of Final Bicycle Study

The Study and its distribution will be deferred until the next meeting.

If you have not received a copy of Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan Final Report and would like a copy, please contact Julie Bittner, RNBC Recording Secretary at 685-1571, extension 3336. Copies of the report are available in both "hard copy" and in CD format.

8. Future Role of the RNBC

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

K. Forgeron provided the Committee with copies of the existing RNBC Terms of Reference and said that we would have to constitute a new committee in the future. Candidates should be aware of what the new responsibilities will be.

9. Accommodating Cycling on Queenston-Lewiston Bridge

This item will be deferred until the November 13th meeting. However, K. Forgeron did report that P. Pattison had been in contact with the Bridge Authority and to his knowledge there will be no accommodation for walkers or cyclists across the bridge.

10. Safety of Off-Shore Workers Cycling in NOTL

T. Whittle requested that this item be deferred until the next meeting. J. Somerwil asked if this issue could be looked at within the Beamsville area as well. T. Whittle agreed that this could be done.

11. Task Force Reports

Encouragement

M. Landry reported that nominations for the Bicycle Friendly Awards have increased this year. So far, there are six nominations for work places, three nominations for small business, two nominations for educational institutions and two nominations for government institutions. Evaluations of the nominations will take place on October 24th and will follow the same format as in previous years. One more person is needed to help with the voting and the Committee agreed to allow M. Landry's Brock University co-op student to participate in the assessment. The Awards will be presented to the winners at the November 6th Council meeting. Award recipients will receive a plaque,

which M. Landry circulated to Committee members, and all nominees will receive a certificate of recognition.

Motion:

To approve the 2003 Bicycle Friendly Award plaque design, the \$10.00 cost to produce each plaque will come from the RNBC budget; and that the nominees recommended to receive a Bicycle Friendly Award will be forwarded to the Public Works Committee for approval.

Moved by: Bill Rashleigh

Seconded by: Bill Crux

Carried

M. Landry also reported that the Greater Niagara Circle Trek Committee will be promoting the Trail by setting up displays at local malls and selling a metre of trail for \$100.00. For every metre sold, the donor will be recognized by having their name(s) inscribed at one of the pavilions to be located in St. Catharines, Thorold, Port Colborne or Fort Erie. The donor will also receive a certificate of support. However, the GNCT Committee needs individuals who are familiar with the Greater Niagara Circle Route to help staff the displays.

On October 5th the Thorold Committee of the Greater Niagara Circle Trek hosted a free event to promote the Trail. Several Thorold businesses donated refreshments, water bottles and prizes. Approximately 250 people attended the event and the feedback received was very positive. The idea behind the free event was to have people come out and simply enjoy the Trail without asking them for money.

12. Information Items for Distribution

K. Forgeron distributed the following items:

- An article from the St. Catharines Standard dated August 13, 2003, which discusses the Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan study and provides supportive comments.
- A copy of the existing Terms of Reference for the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee (2000-2003)
- An article from the Welland Tribune dated September 16, 2003 regarding the issue of suburban sprawl and the need to make our communities more bicycle/pedestrian friendly through more compact development and better urban design.

13. Suggested Agenda Items for November 13, 2003

J. Somerwil noted that the mandate of the RNBC included in the Bikeways Master Plan did not mention utilitarian cycling and he felt that more emphasis on utilitarian cycling

should be included. K. Forgeron suggested that J. Somerwil write down any comments that he has for the Committee to discuss at the November 13th meeting when this issue will be discussed in greater detail.

On behalf of the Committee, K. Forgeron thanked Councillor McMullan for leading the RNBC over the past three years. He expressed appreciation to both Councillor McMullan and Councillor Gabriel for the considerable time and effort that they have given to the Committee and the needs of cyclists.

14. Next RNBC Meeting

The next RNBC meeting will take place on Thursday, November 13th in Committee Room #4.

Meeting Notes Taken by:

Julie Bittner

Reviewed by Ken Forgeron, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner