



Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting (Zoom)

6/25/20

7:00 PM – via Zoom

C:\Users\Lorenz M. Worden\Documents\Bicycle\Meetings\1-2020\ABC Meeting Notes 6-25-20.docx

Membership Donations Welcome! - Albany Bicycle Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership dues and donations are fully tax deductible. Annual dues are \$25.00. Any donations are welcome. The 2020 CARES Act allows taxpayers who don't itemize their deductions to adjust their income up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for a married couple). This adjustment is available for cash gifts to public charities, such as ABC.

Reports –

- **Treasurer Report** (David P.) – Report rendered. Mark noted that the CARES COVID-19 program provides tax credits to donors who give to not-for-profit organizations. The limit is \$300 for individuals and \$600 for couples filing jointly. This is for those who do not claim deductions on their Federal returns and file a Schedule A. The provision encourages people to donate to not-for-profits during the pandemic to assist them at a time when revenues are down. It is also a way for individuals to get tax credit for these donations but who do not normally have enough deductions to warrant a Schedule A (especially since the IRS raised the Standard Deduction). Since the treasurer's report indicated a small number of memberships/donations since the beginning of the year (with nothing in February and March and only one in April), can we get people to think about donating during the summer? Since the city likely will not have events over the summer and ABC's rides have been re-scheduled or canceled, we need to keep our profile on the streets.

David will work with Rob to put a brief note on the pay-your-dues/donate area on our website. When done, Lorenz with David or Mark will do an email to our various lists. Lorenz provided David with detail on expenses and reimbursements.

- **Transport Troy** (Pam) – Transport Troy working on options to make good use of street space to accommodate social distancing when businesses have customers in again. Ideas include: pedestrian-only streets, ways of marking spaces for people to occupy, range of area to use (beyond the Summer Square block at Monument Square), having a main street be ped/bike only on a Sunday, and create node parks in neighborhoods away from downtown. Possible complications could be open-container laws for outside seating for restaurants, vehicular access for emergency vehicles, and pedestrian access while maintaining safe spacing. The Collar City Ramble is on "back burner" but still on the calendar. Most of our activities should be able to be held according to guidelines in effect at the time.

Old Business –

- **Events** – All rides/events are postponed until ride leaders reach out for guidance from Albany County Health on when conventional bicycle rides may resume. These include: New Scotland Ave. Demonstration, Earth Day, Patroon Creek-Hudson, Ride of Silence, Tabling at Albany

City Events, Unity Ramble, and Village of Colonie Family Fun Fest Day (which also depends on Colonie Village).

- **MHBHT Roots** (David) – Update provided. Albany County is now past its extended deadline of 5/26 to respond. David will contact Jessica on status of FOIL. Albany County should address the entire MHBHT that lies in Albany County. Will follow up. Initiate a new FOIL to Reg. #1 – NYS Department of Transportation asking for much of the same data as with Albany County. Electronic version of the contract language is the preferred method of communication. (POST MEETING UPDATE: Albany County has again extended the response deadline to 6/5.)

New Business –

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (John) – Shenendehowa Middle School FIRST LEGO League team formed a Cyclist and Pedestrian Mobility Advocacy Club. Impressive presentation by students showing use of SUMO software for traffic simulation. New Visions 2050 Outreach has evolved with public Engagement is extended. Document will remain live so public input can continue. CDTC setting up a Google number and coordinating with regional organizations to encourage input. Complete Streets Workshop Series applications due 6/19. Complete Streets Design Guide to be available in June. Bike to Work/School Day - Bike to Ride Pledge through the beginning of June. TIP and Linkage Study Status – See website. Bicycle & Pedestrian Education Series updates forthcoming. Solicitation for ADA Self-Analysis and Transition Plans for municipalities' applications due 6/15. NYS producing a Statewide Greenways Plan. Bikeatoga Film Festival Sun, 5/17, 4:30 pm - view and participate via Cafe Lena website. New grant opportunity through Smart Growth America: <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/apply-today-arts-transportation-rapid-response/>. Saratoga Springs Geyser Trail being and finished. Trail projects in Clifton Park connecting to Halfmoon moving forward. Bicycling numbers are up around the region. Next meeting - Tuesday, 6/9, 9:00 AM.
- **Zoom Cutoff** – Zoom terminated our meeting without warning after 35 minutes. Zach's Albany Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan presentation lost. To compensate for the cutoff meeting, we held a second one on 6/2 as reported below. Aaron attended one planning meeting. Aaron also spoke of Mayor Sheehan's press conference earlier in the day where she spoke about linkages to the Albany Riverfront and bicycle trails. She also mentioned blocking off specific streets for exclusive pedestrian and bicyclist use. Zach stated that there will be seven neighborhood meetings. John will reschedule a session with Zach. John and Lorenz will look into contracting with Zoom to get more meeting time.

Zoom Meeting Attendees – Zach Powell* (City of Albany Senior Planner and Project Manager), Brent, Mark*, Ed*, David P.*, Pam, Aaron*, Hugh, Glenn, John G.*, and Lorenz*(*= attended both meetings).

Meeting Dates – ABC meets the last [not the 4th] Thr of each month unless there is a conflicting holiday. Upcoming dates are as follows: 7/30, 8/27, 9/24, 10/29, 11/19 (not 26), and 12/17 (not 24).

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