



Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Zoom Meeting
7/30/20

7:00 PM – via Zoom

C:\Users\Lorenz M. Worden\Documents\Bicycle!\Meetings\1-2020\ABC Meeting Notes 7-30-20.docx

Reports –

- **Treasurer Report** (David P.) – Report rendered. Some discussion on revenues with the notation that 2020 is below 2018 and 2019.
- **Transport Troy** (Pam) – Transport Troy’s 7/8 meeting was on plans for the Summer Square downtown. Instead of closing one block on Monument Square (as previously) and having a scattering of Parking Day mini-parks around downtown, there is now a 4-block area closed to motor vehicle traffic several evenings a week so (1) restaurants can place tables outside, (2) pedestrians have plenty of elbow room, and (3) cyclists can access the area. Markings are already on the streets and the area is in use with entertainment scheduled many evenings. Work continues on the trail map subcommittee. The Collar City Ramble is in the works. Details to be focused on at the August meeting. Troy Bike Rescue is initiating a “slow roll” ride the last Friday of each month. Part of the discussion was on the appeal of smaller cities COVID-19 times compared to large metropolis. Small cities come off well with convenient amenities but ability to social distance too (without complete self-isolation). River St. Extension to the south of Adams St. in process. Lorenz made two riding visits to the Green Isl. Bridge-Middleburgh St. Uncle Sam Trail segment to assess progress on the riverside trail. Much work completed. Kudos to Troy! As of 7/30, construction blocks full use of the trail. We will not change the BikeAlbanyMap at this time.

Old Business –

- **Donation/Membership Drive** (Mark) – Mark reported on our “summer initiative.” David is monitoring PayPal receipts. Lorenz received four checks and will report details to David. One supporter emailed that she is starting a monthly donation. We discussed evaluating the fund raising results to design additional efforts in 2020. We discussed the benefit of the CARES act to ABC. We noted that, although much work is being done, ABC is not as visible as when it is offering programs for the general ridership.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (John) – The Alliance of NYS YMCAs representatives presented an active program to engage youth/students to make their communities safer for walkable/rideable through advocacy skills. Twenty grants from YMCA USA and CDC were used to kick-off this effort. A Program Guide will be released for public use in the near future. Presentation was on grants at YMCAs. Pledge to ride program appeared successful. Those organizations to whom CDTC awarded 2020 Capital Coexists Grants can “roll over” their applications to 2021 or “re-scope” their grants for 2020. John noted that his successful COVID-19 “Village of Colonie Bike Safety Day” grant project was postponed this year but that he will re-apply for the Spring/Summer 2021.
- **MHBHT Roots** (David) – FOIL document received from Albany County. DOT again postponed its response to 9/20. Albany County documents include reference to “maintenance contracts” between Albany County and DOT. It was not clear what “maintenance” covered but it is likely that it applies only to landscaping and tree work and not to paving and paving repair. While Albany County held back some information as “internal-sensitive,” David will request copies of the signed contract(s) as they are public record documents and can be FOILED. The contracts may reveal what Albany County was committed to do in years past.

- **Rides** (John, Ride leaders) – Presentation and discussion of Albany County Health “ride guidelines.” We agreed that we would not invite “the general public” to any rides because of the COVID-19 safety concerns and the challenge of managing a large group behavior. All riders must carry a facemask at all times for the start, stop & end of the ride. Our rides will be restricted to the ABC leadership group. Ed Brennan mentioned that he would coordinate with Rob Carl to organize a follow-up Patroon Creek/Northern Blvd. ride. Pam noted that we could break up rides into segments to reduce crowding.

These are the Albany County Health Dept. guidelines: Bicycle riders do not have to wear masks while riding unless they come directly in contact with someone else unexpectedly or if they stop for a water/rest break, etc. Bicyclists should carry a mask with them at all times in case they encounter such conditions. While riding, bicyclists should keep a desired distance from other riders or walkers as necessary. As long as the bicyclist is moving there should not be a concern with contracting COVID. When riders begin, stop, pause, or end a ride they must be aware of their surroundings and act appropriately.

- **Albany Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan** – Ed is working on his message to the Albany Common Council on what was stated at neighborhood meetings. We discussed having a formal Albany Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan letter from ABC to submit BEFORE the draft report is issued. (We will, of course, react to the draft plan when issued.) The letter would set out our foundational positions on what the plan should do or address. Two salient suggestions were (1) a call for a city-wide speed limit reduction (e.g., 20 mph) from Aaron) and (2) inclusion of timelines for implementing of the plan’s proposals (i.e., unlike the 2009 plan which only include a vague 20-year completion horizon with the result that little has been done for people on bicycles in the City of Albany) from Lorenz. Reduction in the motor vehicle speed limit would evidence the city administration’s true interest in safety for all “vulnerable” road users. Such a move would recognize that streets are for all to use and that they are not reserved for petrovehicles. It was agreed that (1) Ed would draft our response and that (2) ABC members need to **send their specific, succinct suggestions for the letter to Ed ASAP**. There was both discussion and frustration expressed about the “undercurrent” of forcing people on bicycles off direct (i.e., busy) streets and onto round about, alternative routes. The city’s New Scotland Ave. draft “parking-before-bicycle-lanes” proposal exemplifies this approach.

New Business –

- **CapitalNYBikeMap Enhancements** – Glenn reported that all the infrastructure in place to migrate from the BikeAlbanyMap to the enhanced CapitalNYBikeMap format. Certain technical issues remain involving mapping one-way streets in Schenectady. Glenn will resolve these. Glenn has ride-assessed all the routes suggested by Cycle Schenectady and worked with them on various details. We were pleased with the support from Cycle Schenectady.
- **Google Phone 518-444-2142** – Will discontinue since the service provides no benefit to ABC and consumes staff resources. We will remove the number from our print and web resources as they are re-issued/updated.
- **Duty Roster of WWW-Related Functions** – Discussion, planning. See list below. Reviewers we asked to add missing items and post suggested people responsible for each item/
- **Western Ave. Traffic Calming** – Letter to mayor mailed 7/30. Post goes live 8/10 with a call for all people to endorse the idea to the mayor and Albany Common Council using addresses provided.

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

Upcoming – Rides/events/issues? (Go here - <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/resources/events/>)

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee** – Tue, 8/11, 9:00 am. Register in advance at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlof-GtqT0jGNHVxtx0EGRwen_QezOu7HeG

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Web-Related and Other Activities and Who Is Responsible for Each (DRAFT 7-31-20) – “Who does what with what and when?”

- The first question is: **What’s** missing?
- Second: **Who** is responsible for each of the items?
- Third (which we can answer later) **when?** Some are continuous (e.g., email,), some are intermittent (e.g., home page), and some are annual or periodic (e.g., insurance, bank accounts).

Web-related activities

KEY: RC-Rob, GS-Glenn, MC-Margaret, DP-David, PB-Pam, MM-Mark, JG-John G.

Events page	LW
About page	RC
Homepage	RC
BikeAlbanyMap/CapitalNYBikeMap	GS
Bicycle resources	
Dreamhost	GS
Carto	GS
GoDaddy	RC
WordPress	RC
Yahoo email	Routed to Gmail
Gmail	Roster with each person have a set period of responsibility for answering
Facebook	MC
PayPal	DP
Posting meeting notes	LW, RC
Donations area	DP, RC
Resources-Maps page	GS
Resources-Current Projects/Documents	RC
Resources-Organizations page	
Resources- Bike Rescue page	LW
Resources-Organizations page	LW
Resources-Services page	
Blog comments	?
RiseUp lists – maintain	LW, ?
Blog Posts	LW, PB, EB, JG, MM, GS
Zoom contract and scheduling	JG

Other Activities

501(c) 3 status - monitor	MM
ABC membership list (annual)	DP

Co-signatory - SEFCU accounts	LW
Insurance (including 3 rd party certificates)	DP
IRS Filing	DP
LAB membership	DP
LaSalle annual donation	DP
LaSalle Room reservations	LW
SEFCU Accounts	DP

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Zoomees – Mark, Ed, Shelly, David P., Pam, Aaron, Glenn, John G., and Lorenz

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