

Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting

6/1/21

7:00 PM – via Zoom

In Attendance: Ed, John G., David, Glenn, Mark, Pam

Treasurer Report - David P. reported ABC is still in the black. David will give us a total of paying members for last 3 years at next meeting.

Transport Troy Update - Pam reported the May 12, 2021 zoom meeting of Transport Troy began with the announcement that the prototype parklet module had been constructed and was installed in front of the Independent Living Center on 3rd St. After weeks of design tweaks it was built quickly with materials costing less than \$1000. Next step is interpretive signage to educate passersby about its purpose. Also maintenance & litter patrol details and outreach to merchants who might want to have a unit or units for a parklet in front of their business.

Barb Nelson provided an update on the Bloomberg funded Uniting Line project under the Rt. 7/Hoosick St. Bridge where a mural series will revitalize the barren space. Three finalists were chosen (& since the meeting the finalist, Jade Warrick, has been announced). There will be a variety of public events in conjunction with the art project.

There was discussion of funding sources to investigate supporting T. T. projects. They are beginning to plan for this year's Collar City Ramble in September.

Cycle Schenectady Report – Email report from Art Clayman

1) Second ride of season, and first neighborhood ride, was held May 16th. Not as many participants as Earth Day ride, which drew about 25 people. This one, which went through the GE Realty Plot and North End, had more like 10. We couldn't get neighborhood representatives to speak, as planned, so Art {CS President} gave a little talk about both neighborhoods during brief stops.

More neighborhood rides are planned in the coming months. Here is the tentative list

Woodlawn-- July 17

Hamilton Hill ---Aug 15

Bellevue -- Sept. 12

2) Complete Streets:

a) Some Cycle Schenectady (CS) and Schenectady United Neighborhoods members participated in a Complete Streets workshop sponsored by Schenectady County on May 6th. County and city planners and engineers were present.

b) While the exact form has yet to be decided, the county is proposing some kind of intermunicipal approach to Complete Streets -- adoption of which by the city is one of the goals of Cycle Schenectady as well as Safe Streets Schenectady.

c) The group at one point brainstormed possible demonstration projects for this year. One was marking bike lanes for Cycle the Erie riders to use when they come through the city on July 17th. Another was marking a bike lane on Grand Blvd. between Nott St. and the Niskayuna town line -- a lane that the city's bike master plan actually calls for.

d) They talked about the idea of a Bike the Library Branches ride and a Bike the Parks ride

3) Event originally planned for May 23 on Hamilton Hill will now be held June 26 (with rain date of June 27).

The day will involve a bike giveaway (compliments of the bike rescue), bike fix-it (also bike rescue), bike rodeo for kids (CS) and possible bike ride around neighborhood (also CS). It will be held at Jerry Burrell Park and Art will try to get a permit to close Paige Street adjacent to the park.

4) Art's contact at Martin, Harding and Lazzotti finally came through with 60 helmets and a large number of blinky lights for the above and other events.

5) Art emailed Mayor McCarthy yesterday pushing an idea he has proposed before: closing Central Park's interior roads to motorized vehicles from 10 am to 2 pm Sundays.

Old ABC Business –

Final Albany Bike-Ped Master Plan / Albany Ride to Work Event - The City of Albany sponsored a short ride from the South Pearl Rail Trail Parking Lot along the South End Connector to the USS Slater where speeches were given. At the invitation of the Mayor's Office, ABC's Ed Brennan was among the speakers introducing the Final Albany Bike-Ped Master Plan. ABC was involved in all the public meetings for the plan

and submitted its thoughts in writing as well. The new plan reflects numerous ABC suggestions. It includes a total of 30 miles of protected bike lanes along major roads, 19 miles of multiuse paths, 4 miles of traditional bike lanes supported by 43 miles of low stress/low speed cycleable streets designated as bike boulevards. Concepts such as “twenty is plenty” and “vision zero” are presented along with methods of making our streets not just survivable for cyclists and walkers but making biking and walking viable means of transport. See <https://vizcomm.wixsite.com/albanybikepedplan>. It is important to remember this is a long range plan. Most of the last bike plan was never implemented. When, whether and how this plan is implemented remains to be seen. It may be a useful document to point to when arguing for infrastructure and bike/ped accommodations in the years to come.

Root Damage MHBHT- DOT Repair Project – David reported the state has begun repairing the ROOTS damage on the MHHBT directly north of the Corning Preserve. Assembly member Phil Steck was instrumental in securing funding. However, the County is showing reluctance to do any regular maintenance (mowing/cleanup) along the trail. County legislator Joe O'Brien temporarily withdrew his resolution. He suggested that I draft a letter to the mayors of Albany, Menands, Watervliet and Cohoes urging that they reach out to the County Legislature stressing the economic impact of the trail and ask that they take on regular maintenance. Joe also suggested that ABC circulate a petition. David plans to approach the Downtube about this. Since it's a bike shop, it should be easy to secure many signatures.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee CDTC (May Meeting) John reported the May CDTC Meeting was held in the form of a walk along the Albany Hudson Electric Trail in East Greenbush.

Transportation Projects

South End Connector Safety Enhancements - Mark reported Sonia Frederick reached out to Bill Trudeau - who reached out to Lorenz - who re-sent Bill Trudeau the safety recommendations that he had sent him previously. Derek Johnson is not responding.

Washington Park / Center Square Study- Walking-Riding Collaboration – Ed reached out to Mr. Trudeau for an update on the status of the study. There was no reply and nothing appears on the City Calendar.

Rapp Rd. Campaign – After a negative response from Pine Bush representatives for a separate multiuse path, Hugh will look into road alignment possibilities for bike lanes.

Patroon Greenway Project – Ed has been working to generate interest in the forthcoming public meetings associated with the City’s Greenway Study. He has been in touch with Kim Tateo Tivoli Farm Executive Director and Farm Manager. He spoke at the CANA Meeting on June 2 meeting and Steering Committee for Neighborhood Revitalization of West Hill and West End Meeting on June 3. He also wishes to use an Arbor Hill Slow Roll Ride to promote the project.

Rides

Ride of Silence Report. John G. reported 17 riders (5 ABC). It was generally agreed that this year’s route devised by Glenn and John was a great improvement. The ride finished much earlier and before dark. Total length was under 14 miles. Four locations visited. Instead of stops at every sight, riders passed by two volunteer sign holders that covered the four locations. Next year with COVID behind us we will advertise the ride more and endeavor to draw more riders.

YMCA Ride Against Racism Report – Lorenz, Ed and Pam met up at the Delmar/Elsmere Ride Registration Table. They gave riders information about ABC and were ready with air pumps and tools for those in need. We hope to be more involved if this is done in future years.

Slow Roll Albany/Libraries Rides (Ed, Mark, Glenn) – Black Girls Do Bike and Freewheel Bike Repair sponsored a slow roll ride at the Thursday June 10th South End market. Ed was among the 8 to 10 riders. We all agreed to keep in touch about future rides which we all might support. Ed has been working on an Arbor Hill Ride with Paul Stewart starting at the Meyer’s Residence. We have also been contacted by Libraries to do a Bike the Libraries Ride. Glenn is following thru on the Libraries ride.

Daily Grind Ride (all) – has been scheduled for August 14th.

Bike Capital Region (Ed, John) – No news since they held their last Zoom meeting in April.

LaSalle Annual Donation – Treasurer David reported a \$150 was completed.

Empire State Trail Webinar – Ed attended the Civil Engineering Webinar on the EST. Most of the meeting was a general discussion of what the trail is and a retrospective of how a few engineering issues were addressed. One interesting announcement was the plan to extend the EST 125 miles to the tip of Long Island. They are still working out route choices but will be starting phase I with a 25 mile central LI section that is to be 80% off road.

New Business –

Twin-City Bike Ride Update – (John reported there is a \$1,853 CDTC grant with a \$616 ABC match. It will help cover advertising costs. Newspapers were noted to be very expensive - Pam suggested WAMC. No date yet. John is getting together a core group to pick a route. CS has no funds to contribute. Considering a suggested ride contribution. Considering Cook Park midway picnic point. John wants the ride to be about 12 miles each way. Insurance rider - was about \$200.

South End Connector Trail Ambassadors – Hugh made a pitch for trail ambassadors at a recent South End Neighborhood Association Meeting. He reported glass was largely cleaned up in advance of the Bike to Work Day ride. Hopefully Albany General Services will keep up the maintenance.

Bike Map Updates - Glenn – Updated the map for the temporary detours along the Corning Trail. Next up he is working with Ken Crandall on a route from the Dunn Memorial Bridge to HVCC, about a dozen miles. In Schenectady – he will be looking at the new protected bike lane over Freeman's Bridge and the state of paving on the EST in Rotterdam Junction. In Saratoga County he will be having a look at the state of the Champlain Canalway trail.

Resuming In Person Meetings? David P. will be reaching out to LaSalle School and whether we can use their Internet to have hybrid in person/zoom meetings going forward.

Review of Responsibilities – we agreed to postpone this issue for a more focused group discussion of the officers, the Carle's and Lorenz.

Wednesday night **Rally** – we had a last minute invitation from Leah Golby to attend a rally for Bike Safety Legislation by Legislature, Wednesday June 3rd at 6pm. Annie and Mark attended. Ed helped arrange for Patty Sawyer, mother of deceased cyclist Rodger Sawyer to speak.

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

Meeting Dates – ABC meets the last [not the 4th] Thursday of each month unless there is a conflicting holiday. Upcoming dates are as follows: 6/24, 7/29, 8/26, 9/30, 10/28, 11/18 (not 11/25), and 12/30.

++++++