
MINUTES – AUGUST 17, 2003 –APPROVED 12/09/03

Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition August 17, 2003, Bradford, Vermont

Present: Kathy Davidow, Dale Critchlow, David Jacobowitz, Richard Bernstein (chair), Bob Atkinson (late). Not Present: Amy Verner (potential by phone), Bruce Cunningham (potential by phone), Len Lamoureux, George Plumb.

Call to order at 10:00 am by Chair Bernstein. Kasie Wallace has resigned. We have 10 board members, so when Rich arrives, we have a quorum.

Minutes of May 3, 2003, approved with two changes: 1. Rich Warren was not present. 2. Clarification sought from Kasie's notes whether the board set a cap on any personal loan or line-of-credit. Minutes not approved until 2 is resolved.

President's report: Bunky met with Senator Jeffords' staff (at their request) along with Chapin Spencer, Connie Livingston, and Jim Tasse, the new director of the Rutland Area Physical Activity Coalition. Things aren't as bad as we think at the federal level. See E.D. report.

Executive Director's Report: Peter Flucke, a trainer of Bike Safety trainers for SafeKids will do two all-day trainings. The AOT contract project is not ramped up because summer is slow: will get going in the fall. Justin Brown of Fairfax has been hired as a consultant to do curriculum development.

The House Appropriations Transportation subcommittee-approved cuts to enhancements probably won't stand. There will be a floor fight. Bernie has requested an earmark for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail in the TEA-3 legislation.

25,000 green share business cards have been printed. They are to be distributed where any bicycles are sold; K-Mart and Wal-Mart sell to users who really need to know the rules. They will also go to bike shops.

Lamoille Valley Rail-Trail will be managed by VAST. Snow machines are winter users; bicycles and non-motorized vehicles are intended for other times. But it would be good to get specific language in the funding language.

Motion: The board directs the executive director to advocate for a way to exclude ATVs and dirt bikes from the Lamoille Valley Rail-Trail. Moved, seconded, discussed, called, passed unanimously.

Financial Report. Becca: We are under budget both on income and expenses. There is contract work that can be billed for. Finances continue to be tight, but memberships have about doubled; this is our major source of income. The board has approved Becca to be paid for 30 hrs per week, but the funds aren't currently there, so Becca is still being paid for 20 hrs per week. This should change this fall. Moving to 30 hrs per week will make cash flow much more challenging. Add a cash flow component to the next financial report. (Bank balance is about \$700.)

Kathy & Rich form a committee to work on grants and other revenue sources.

Board Nominations & Elections. We have 6 slots and 4 or 5 indications of interest from potential nominees.

Nominees: Curt M., Bob M., Jamie H. Christie N. Returning board members: George P., Kathy D., Bunky B., David J., Rich W., Dale C., Amy V. Continuing board members: Bob A., Len L., Bruce C.

MOTION: To approve the four nominees and the returning board members seeking election. Pass Unanimously.

MOTION: The 2003 board elections will be conducted by mail and email. Discussion: Send in descriptions of nominees including your own description and what you would like to accomplish. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Annual Meeting. We decided to hold the election before the annual meeting so that the get-together can be mostly fun. We can invite the new board members as part of their orientation. Nominators will act as mentors for the board members they recruited.

Set Annual Meeting Saturday October 4th, 2003. Maybe at VBT in Bristol. Bunky will check. Agenda: Recount year's work. Orient new board members. Discuss work plan. Present goals, objectives. Emphasize committee structure and work. Bike ride and potluck picnic supper, rain or shine.

Events Team Report: Bob A. Community Health Fair with FAHC and Ski Rack just yesterday, Aug. 16th. Medical awareness, free bike helmets. Why do we do these? To get name recognition as experts.

Tim Cowles Challenge. Although we have doubled the membership since May, we are only halfway to the \$2000 matching challenge. We will request an extension of the challenge until Oct 1st and announce the outcome with a ceremony at the annual meeting.

Assess the Work Plan. It has not been updated. We should be preparing in summer for work starting in the fall.

Re-do the budget based on memberships, not grants, as our main source of money.

Strengthen the committees. Ask each chair to write a description of their committee to post on the web site. Ask members to join at least one committee. Review all this at the annual meeting.

Kathy suggests we have a meeting to focus on the Work Plan, which will bring new board members along. October meeting: Work Plan, December meeting: Budget.

Break for lunch.

Becka reviews bicycle/pedestrian funding. Sen. Leahy is on the Senate Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee. (Clarification since the meeting - Leahy is still on Appropriations but is no longer on Transportation subcommittee.) Ask him to be sure

enhancements aren't cut. Cuts in federal spending mean cuts in Vermont spending. Expect a huge fight to retain enhancements. Bernie will fight to retain enhancements.

Traditionally Vermont has attracted tourists for road riding. Paths and rail-trails are becoming more important, and we are behind. We have a lot of short paths not connected. The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail will be the biggest path in the state. How to work with VAST to keep motors off it in the summer? See motion above.

Note the Winooski Bridge will create a great trail attraction and, combined with the Burlington to Charlotte path, under study, will make the eastern side of Lake Champlain a very attractive bicycle tourist destination.

Strategies: Get time to testify on effects of paths/trails on tourist commerce and health. Can these projects be done more cheaply? Dale says it's important to preserve rights-of-way.

We should ask VTrans for a report on shoulder improvements during repaving and reconstruction. Informal inspection of Route 7 between Colchester Village and Chimney Corners and Route 302 east of Barre show minimal shoulders. We should make sure that VTrans is following state law. Rich and Kathy indicated interest in working on following up, asking for a report, and ground-checking the report.

Authorization to Borrow Money. Rich requests a review. Becka explains that there is a lag between when expenses are incurred on grants and when we are reimbursed. Short-term loans may be necessary when our cash is low. Amy V. offered a personal loan and the Board officially approved it so that VBPC could enter into an agreement.

Next meeting for Work Plan: Tuesday 21 October 2003 6-8 pm at VTC. Rich W. will make arrangements.

Adjourn 2:10 pm.

Attach: Work Plan, Executive Director's Report, And Financial Report.

Respectfully Submitted
Dave Jacobowitz
Acting Secretary