
MINUTES - APRIL 23, 2003 - APPROVED 6/12/2004 -

Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition
Board Meeting April 3, 2004 -- Approved 6/12/2004

Present: Dale Critchlow, Bunky Bernstein (President), George Plumb, Curt McCormack, David Jacobowitz (Secretary), Becka Roof (Exec Dir), Amy Verner, Kathy Davidow (Vice Pres), Jamie Hess (Treas), Bob Atchinson, Christy Nevius, Bruce Cunningham, Donna Cunningham (member).

Absent: Bruce Bell, Rich Warren, Bob McKearin

10:05 Call to order. Introductions. No adjustments to agenda. Approval of minutes of Dec 9, 2003, PASSED on VOICE.

President's Report: No changes to the board. Executive committee met by phone to discuss finances and the budget. Our office has moved to Montpelier, in shared space with Rural Vermont. 15 Barre St. 2nd Floor. New office phone: 802 279 7545, a cell phone. Address: PO Box 1234, Montpelier, VT 05601

Executive Director's Report: AOT Safety Training contract is in operation. We have more volunteers to be trained to give safety training than we can accommodate at first. Want to train the folks with some previous experience first.

Governor Douglas appointed Becka to the Transportation Operations Council, which is charged with coordinating all transportation issues in the state. The council is a nonpartisan advisory board.

VTrans Report: Word comes from Amy B and Jon K that the statewide Bicycle Pedestrian Plan is up for revision. We get a slot or maybe two on the steering committee. The design manual was called for in the previous plan; that's how it came about. Curt and George were on the previous steering committee; there is a Bicyclists' Bill of Rights that should be advanced.

Statewide bicycle map is on the back burner.

10:30 Financial Report. Becka hands out reports. Highlights: We didn't get hoped-for grants in 2003. Biggest expenditure is staff salary. Becka is pleased to have detailed financial pictures so that we know what is happening.

Becka refreshes us about the bicycle advocacy nonprofit "three-legged stool": 1. Government Funding, 2. Memberships, 3. Events/Rides.

Executive Director's Report (see distributed material)

Becka would like to shed the financial reporting, membership mailing, and database maintenance. Ask for office volunteer envelope stuffers and help in the office through the next newsletter. Put volunteer request on website, too.

Decisions: Becka will log her time to keep a record of our debt.

Membership Drive: Becks needs to invest \$3500 in materials (bumper stickers, mail back envelopes, newsletter printing). The payback is estimated at \$9000

Christy offers to contribute the bumper stickers, Amy Verner will lend \$1000, Amy V is in for a loan too.

Education Committee Report. Bob A notes that spring is bicycle safety education time. He has consulted with Becka on the AOT safety contract. There is an AOT training for experienced trainers on April 17th. There is a list of people who want first level training. The driver's education instructors like bicycle education because it teaches the same behaviors. 20-30 schools are on the list of pilots for May trainings for 4-5th grades.

Membership & Events Committee. Kathy D lists 3 pieces:

1. Expects to put out a slick newsletter by mid-May
2. Cowles Challenge Grant repeat, for memberships combined with
3. Trek 2500 bike drawing

Amy V. got John Burke of Trek Bicycles (she is a dealer) to give us a carbon fiber 5200 to offer in a raffle. Each new member gets a chance. Each existing member who recruits a new member gets a chance. Board members and family are not eligible. Battenkill Sports will fit and supply the bike.

Share the Road Committee. Bunky reports much activity. We reviewed radio PSA scripts, got in touch with potential recorders and deliverers. Bob McKearin looked at the Commercial Driver's License Manual. It has little safety information of any kind. Alice Charkes of Brattleboro has been talking to Barry Ford the state coordinator of driver's ed and to local teachers. There is at least one bicycle question on the driver's exam.

Brochure: Jon Kaplan showed us a draft brochure that included all the material we were going to put in our flyer, so we decided to co-sponsor it and drop our flyer. There will be a push for Bike Month, this May. We have a schedule of articles for Vermont Sports Today -- including one by Larry Niles of Vermont Bicycle Touring on 2-up riding, the most frequent complaint to him from car drivers.

Steve Pierce put together several model letters to the editor. Becka will email them to members around the state to submit to their local papers. We hope to get at least two letters per county across the state in local papers. All board members are also encouraged to submit to their local paper.

Kent Johnson has been working with Becka on a letter to harrassing motorists. The victim bicyclist turns the license number in to the state police who mail the letter, which is a gentle warning of the law and the complaint. Kent is leaving to grad school and would like to find someone to take over this effort. Contact Becka.

Law enforcement education. Becka participated in a pilot last fall and is ready to train law enforcement personnel if funding permits.

Green card distribution: Send a few cards to each new member, but get stacks out to board members and active advocates to hand out to bicyclists and path users who need education; stores like Kmart that sell bikes.

Advocacy Committee. Amy V and Becka attended the National Bicycle Summit in Washington, DC. The Thunderhead Alliance met there, too. TEA21 reauthorization was up. They talked to our congressional delegation -- Jeffords, Leahy, Sanders are all supportive. Bernie spoke at length. He's a member of the Congressional Bike Caucus. Local advocacy with Vermont legislature is working on repealing the sidepath law and insuring funding.

Government Relations Committee - Dale, Curt & Jamie. The committee is charged with dealing with AOT at the administrative level, the National Bike Summit, federal and statehouse responses, such as the sidepath law, the "Bicyclist's Bill of Rights." Dave, Jamie, Curt, Bunky volunteer. Non-board members such as Rob Bass, Jim Arnold, Craig Della Penna (RTC) can meet by phone. Meet before the legislative session starts. Meanwhile Becka should be free to follow her professional instinct to deal with emerging issues. If time permits, seek advice from the exec committee and then the board -- per our advocacy policy.

Facilities Committee (Rich Warren, Bruce Bell, Len Lamoureux --since resigned) was supposed to track road paving to be sure that the Agency's contractors were following the law putting in bike shoulders of the right width, "share the road" signs, sidepath indicators, remove "no bicycles" signs.

MOTION to Disband the Facilities Committee. Sometimes just a call to Mike Hedges or the head of AOT would make a difference if the project was in an early stage. We should act as a clearing house. Is the committee up to it. Rich isn't here, but he may still be interested. Withdraw the motion until we can ask Rich if he is still interested. WITHDRAWN.

Wind Farm Petition. MOTION to add our signature to distributed statement support wind farms. Although individual board members support wind power, the motion FAILS.

Membership Workshops -- Becka suggests we practice our "ask" patter. Stress four

areas: A. Education and Bicycle Safety, B. Share the Road promotion, C. Advocacy in the Vermont legislature, federal legislature, and funding perpetuation, D. Networking around the state so we are coordinated.

Membership mailing list swaps with likeminded organizations. Plan on helping with the late April (20-25) membership mailing.

Set ANNUAL MEETING: 11 September in conjunction with Vermont Safe Kids Ride. Hold the Trek bicycle raffle drawing. We will offer to help recruit riders and take advantage of the excellent organization VSK does on this ride.

Set next QUARTERLY MEETING: 12 June in Norwich-- this will set the Strategic Plan

Set retreat-like Work Plan "retreat" meeting 23 October at VTC, to create the work plan based on the strategic plan

The meeting after that will set the budget based on the Work Plan

Evaluate this Meeting -- Like/Change List

- + Brattleboro and North East Kingdom are not represented
- + Good flow, we kept on task on on schedule by adjusting.
- + Good talent on board, creative energy. Move toward assistants
- + Dealt with the difficult issue of Becka's salary and time.
- + Too much financial report detail
- + Use committee reports for brief report with policy recommendation, don't reopen discussion
- + Getting through the agenda is tough. Use committees more. Keep the reports concise, in writing
- + Good to have financial reports so we know what's going on
- + Happy with pay issue so we can keep Becka.