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## August Meeting Minutes August 20, 2020 (Virtual Meeting)

Bob McBride called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Member attendees:** Bob McBride (Chair), Helga Huntley (Vice-Chair), Dave Saunders (Secretary), Mark Deshon, Lauri Webber, Brian Bahnson, Karen Rosenberg, Dan Weile, Paul Baumbach, and Polly Sierer

**Partner liaison attendees:**

City of Newark: Mike Fortner\* (Planning & Development)

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

DelDOT: Chip Kneavel

Bike Delaware: John Bare

Delaware Greenways: Adam Crosby

University of Delaware: Dustin Schrantz (Police)

\*also a BikeNewark member

### Membership Drive

Mark Deshon reported that the response to our recent mailing doubled the size of the membership to 23 Individual Members at this point. We should now engage members to ask what they might like to do help out. We need more people to do the work that is before us.

### Treasurer's Report

Karl Hassler couldn't make the meeting but submitted a financial report (see last page).

### Off-Road Trail Improvement Discussion

Gary Kirk is president of the Wilmington Trail Club (WTC) and maintains the Mason Dixon Trail segment in Newark also known as the Rittenhouse Trail. He and Dave Saunders walked the trail to assess what improvements might be done. WTC has an agreement with the City to "host" the Rittenhouse Trail. Currently, the City of Newark does tree removal, and Gary Kirk (with other volunteers) does trimming and other maintenance, including minor rerouting of sections to deal with washouts and repair of the many wooden bridges.

The six inches of rain from tropical storm Isaias caused some tree damage (10 trees down in the section from Church Road to Elkton Road). There was very little trail erosion but lots of

water impact in the form of debris accumulation and sand deposition to the trail. Dave hopes that the trail can be made more visible to the community as well as more stroller-compatible and bikeable. For instance, there are no obvious signs at the trailheads at the moment, and there is no write-up on the trail on the Parks & Recreation portion of the City's website. Delaware Greenways is interested in this but does not have funds for contribution to signage.

We discussed the possibility of substantial trail improvement to be on a par with the James Hall and Pomeroy Trails (and form an off-road ring around Newark). There was a wide range of views about this. Despite the urban setting, the rustic single-track nature of the trail is very important to some. Because of floodplain issues, significant trail upgrades may be challenging.

DelDOT's Chip Kneavel noted that some of the trail would be easy to harden. Rep. Paul Baumbach noted that it might be possible to please everyone by differing the surface of sections depending on what makes the most sense. It was remarked that the State hardened and widened the trail in 2013 from Church Road to Thunder Creek for construction purposes, but that section has not been kept open. Mike Fortner noted that surface-improvement planning would be taking place in heavy-floodplain territory, so it would be difficult but not impossible to maintain a hardened trail. There is no long-term City plan for development of this trail for any infrastructure improvements at this time.

We reached a consensus that signage and minor improvements might be pursued, but the jury is still out on the desirability of more ambitious long-term plans.

### **Safe Routes to School Project Update**

Paint lines for the new, buffered bike lanes on Casho Mill Road have been seen by many people recently, with some puzzlement about why this has been done. Mark will work on an explanatory blog post for the BikeNewark website and post on Facebook. See the Safe Routes to School report for more information.

### **Newark Bikeways Update**

Mark talked with Tim Filasky recently. The City of Newark is backed up in projects, so not much has happened in the past three months despite the fact we have funding to pay for this and we have given them the information they need. Mark will follow up.

### **Delaware Bicycle Council Grant Application**

Mark has been working on a draft of a grant application (due August 31) on in partnership with the City of Newark to foster low-stress bicycling on Wyoming Road. More time by the City of Newark is needed to fill in answers to some of the questions. Jeff Riegner of the Whitman, Requardt & Associates offered to review this before we submit any proposal. Mark is working on gathering letters of support from community groups and organizations, including UD and the College Square developer. James Wilson of Bike Delaware will also help with the submitting information. The City of Newark has not won these grants in the past, and it can use all the help it can get.

### **Transportation Planning Updates**

The Newark Transportation Improvement District (TNP) committee refined the analysis performance criteria for intersections. Newark went with intersection delay time rather than level of service (LOS). A community outreach meeting that was to be held during Newark Community Day will now be an online meeting. It was suggested that we could incorporate this into a scheduled TNP online discussion. Heather Dunigan invited people to participate in the New Castle County Non-motorized Group.

## **Communications**

*Facebook:* Heather and Mark will post to Facebook as they can. Polly Sierer asked to share this with the Newark Partnership website. TNP should like the Facebook page for auto updates.

*Videos:* Lauri Webber and Helga Huntley are interested in helping with educational videos concerning bicycling on Main Street.

## **New or Old Business**

- ***“Bike to Dine” Event(s)***

The idea was discussed of dining events promoted by BikeNewark with a restaurant partner. Heather mentioned this as a possibility to Towne Square. We should work with the local business community and City regarding the Wednesday evening Main Street Al Fresco dining events. We had done a promotion like this for the past two scheduled Main Street Al Fresco nights but might do so in the future. Draft at Philips Park is another activity with which we could coordinate.

- ***“Delaware Yield” Law***

John Bare reported that the stop-as-yield law in Delaware (part of the Bicycle Friendly Delaware Act) for cyclists needs to be renewed in the next legislative session, or it will expire. Bike Delaware hoped this would be noncontroversial, but some opposition has formed, and the Speaker of the Delaware House of Representatives has said that he opposes renewal.

The Delaware Bike Council/Delaware State Police liaison has gathered crash data and placed them on the Delaware Bike Council website. Reported crashes to Delaware State Police have decreased by 11% since the new law went into effect. Stop-sign crashes have decreased by 23%. He hopes that Bike Delaware can work with BikeNewark and legislators to help with the controversy about the renewal. Rep. Baumbach is working with state senators to get these data to Delaware House and Senate legislators to encourage renewal.

- ***Newark Area Welfare Committee Collaboration with Newark’s Police Athletic League***

Polly mentioned that the Newark Area Welfare Committee is funding a Police Athletic League outreach-program trailer and is providing bikes and helmets to participating children along with other programs and services. A Newark Bike Project youth-outreach grant also works in this area and has unused funds that might be available for parts of this project.

Adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

*Minutes by Dave Saunders*

|   |                      |                  |                      |
|---|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Beginning balance 7/17/2020</b>          | <b>(\$ 6,523.37)</b> | <b>(\$ 0.00)</b> | <b>(\$ 6,523.37)</b> |
| Additions:                                  |                      |                  |                      |
| 7/24/20 American Specialty refund           | 25.30                |                  | 25.30                |
| 7/31/19 Interest                            | 0.17                 |                  | 0.17                 |
| 7/27/20 Abraham Lenhoff - membership        |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 7/27/20 S. Ismat Shah - membership          |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 7/27/20 Diane Burns - membership            |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 7/28/20 Michael Schnaars - membership       |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 7/28/20 Katlyn Cofrancisco - membership     |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 7/29/20 George Clifton - donation           |                      | 20.00            | 20.00                |
| 7/29/20 Tiffany Probasco - membership       |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 7/31/20 Dianne Leipold - membership         |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 8/3/20 Louis Rossi - membership             |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 8/3/20 Louis Rossi- donation                |                      | 25.00            | 25.00                |
| 8/4/20 Paul Baumbach - membership           |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 8/19/20 Hassler - membership                |                      | 10.00            | 10.00                |
| 8/19/20 Transfer PP>WSFS                    | 137.19               | (137.19)         | 0.00                 |
| <b>Total additions</b>                      | <b>162.66</b>        | <b>7.81</b>      | <b>170.47</b>        |
| Deductions:                                 |                      |                  |                      |
| 7/27/20 Abraham Lenhoff - membership        |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 7/27/20 S. Ismat Shah - membership          |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 7/27/20 Diane Burns - membership            |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 7/28/20 Michael Schnaars - membership       |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 7/28/20 Katlyn Cofrancisco - membership     |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 7/29/20 George Clifton - donation           |                      | (0.88)           | (0.88)               |
| 7/29/20 Tiffany Probasco - membership       |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 7/31/20 Dianne Leipold - membership         |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 8/3/20 Louis Rossi - membership             |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 8/3/20 Louis Rossi- donation                |                      | (1.03)           | (1.03)               |
| 8/4/20 Paul Baumbach - membership           |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 8/19/20 Hassler - membership                |                      | (0.59)           | (0.59)               |
| 8/11/20 Deshon - reimb WPress Personal-no a | 48.00                |                  |                      |
| <b>Total deductions</b>                     | <b>48.00</b>         | <b>(7.81)</b>    | <b>40.19</b>         |
| <b>Surplus (deficit)</b>                    | <b>114.66</b>        | <b>0.00</b>      | <b>114.66</b>        |
| <b>Ending balance 8/19/2019</b>             | <b>(\$ 6,638.03)</b> | <b>(\$ 0.00)</b> | <b>(\$ 6,638.03)</b> |