



BikeNewark.org • facebook.com/BikeNewark • @BikeNewark

January Meeting Minutes January 21, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

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

Member attendees: Bob McBride (Chair), Karen Rosenberg (Vice-Chair), Christine Schultz (Secretary), Karl Hassler (Treasurer), Mark Deshon, Mike Fortner, Helga Huntley, and Dave Saunders

Partner liaison attendees:

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

DelDOT: Paul Moser

Bike Delaware: John Bare

Delaware Greenways: Adam Crosby

City of Newark: Mike Fortner* (Planning & Development), Greg D'Elia (Police)

Guest: Jeff Riegner

*also an Individual Member of BikeNewark

Discuss Status of First Friday Rides and Leadership

Initially, First Friday Rides were planned to resume in March. BikeNewark is supportive of the idea but acknowledged the challenge of having an organizer. They are a good way to also gather names for future events and membership. League of American Bicyclists insurance does cover this type of event with various parameters. A waiver is strongly encouraged and has been used consistently in past rides. In light of safety issues surrounding COVID-19, planning for this event will be moved to the March agenda with the possibility of starting in June. Also discussed was the value of fall ride to introduce new UD community members (staff and students) to biking in Newark.

Finalize Goals for 2021

Bob McBride shared proposed goals based on discussions from 2020 and accomplishments. Below are broad objectives for the year, with specific goals as noted from the December meeting. Based on our discussion at this meeting, which was a continuation of our December 2020 discussion, we proposed these four broad goals.

BikeNewark Proposed Goals for 2021

- 1) Continue to plan and develop low-stress connections within the City of Newark by finishing

the planned low-stress Newark Bikeways network. Specifically:

- a. Complete installation of Newark Bikeways “phase 2” wayfinding signage.
 - b. Begin discussions and planning of Newark Bikeways “phase 3” signage needs.
 - c. Advocate for bicycle-related improvement of Wyoming Road corridor.
 - d. Improve safety at the Pomeroy Trail/Creek Rd. intersection and other roads/trails with signage or visibility improvements as needed.
- 2) Advocate and assist in planning connection of bikeways and trails in Newark with other regional, state, and national trails, including:
- a. Participate in updating Newark Bicycle Plan, County, and/or State bicycle plans/studies.
 - b. Participate in South College Avenue alternative transportation–project planning.
 - c. Research the actual use of existing trails and bikeways to provide relevant planning data, including collecting data on trail use, bike/pedestrian/car accidents, and traffic for planning and evaluation.
- 3) Assist in promoting bicycling events planned by BikeNewark or others for recreation, education, or environmental sustainability, including:
- a. Reinstate regular group rides of some type (e.g., First Friday Rides).
 - b. Plan for a Bike to Work Day, as COVID-19 restrictions allow, some time in 2021.
- 4) Make City of Newark and Delaware traffic codes more bicycle-friendly.
- a. Lobby for elimination of the sunset clause in the “Delaware Yield” law (part of the Bicycle Friendly Delaware Act).
 - b. Support other Delaware legislation on bike safety, which would enhance bicycle-friendliness.
 - c. Encourage changes in Newark municipal codes to enhance safe bike use by children for whom roadway bike lanes might not be appropriate.

Discussion concluded with a need to resurrect the Safety Committee. It was suggested that we consider advocating for children to be allowed to ride on sidewalks when otherwise prohibited (e.g., Main Street and Casho Mill Road), defining the difference between bike lanes and shoulders, and allowing eastbound bikes on Amstel Avenue to turn right onto Orchard Road. The Engineering Committee will revisit the last point as well as the other locations where they have suggested “Except Bicycles” signage.

Codify Membership Renewal Parameters

Proposed by Mark Deshon and approved, new Individual Members who pay dues during November or December will have their membership carry forward through the following calendar year. Individual Members will have until the end of January to renew their membership (i.e., January being a grace period during which they could still vote if dues were had been paid during the previous year). Individual Members who paid dues in 2020 should renew their membership for 2021 as set forth above.

Form an Ad Hoc Committee to Plan Bike to Work Day

Discussion centered on a virtual event and other options for May. Christine Schultz will lead the ad

hoc committee with the assistance of Karen Rosenberg, Mike Fortner, Heather Dunigan, and Bob McBride.

Status Updates on:

Trail Amenities Grant application – Mark Deshon and Bob McBride

The application is complete and has been submitted to Delaware Greenways. The application deadline is late January, and we should hear back in early March. Initial feedback is positive.

Rittenhouse Trail improvements project – David Saunders

The Engineering Committee will review the latest plans during its next meeting. The City of Newark agreed to pay for the poles and signage (approved 30) on the Rittenhouse Trail, which is a walking and mountain-biking single-track trail from Church Road to Rittenhouse Park. Presently, two bridges are out, but repairs are planned at the Church Road end as well as near Newark Charter School.

Newark Bikeways phase 2 wayfinding signage – Mark Deshon

The City of Newark has told us it cannot commit to installing the signs with its current staff shortage. A suggestion was made to confirm the number of signs volunteers could potentially install on existing posts and what may be needed by City staff in order to accelerate progress. Mark will discuss with Tom Coleman (City Manager).

Transportation Improvement District (TID) committee – Bob McBride and Heather Dunigan

Bob and Heather attended the most recent meeting. There they learned that a bypass road was suggested, which would connect Suburban Plaza to Barksdale Road to ease traffic on Elkton Road. Two options were suggested that include a road with mixed-mode (biking and walking) features. While adding this roadway would be a great traffic improvement, there will have to be serious discussions on the environmental challenges and costs posed by any such road.

The Newark Partnership – Bob McBride

Staff member will be hired soon. This will enhance possibilities for coordinating activities.

Consider Formation of Ad Hoc Committee to Work on Revision/Update of Newark Bike Plan

This topic was pushed future meeting with discussion and assistance of the City and WILMAPCO. It was suggested that this become an addendum, as this is less complex than a full revision. Current plan is from 2014.

Treasurer's Report

Previous balance was \$6,706.23. The new balance is \$7,012.81. Several memberships were paid. See full statement on the following page.

Old and New Business

League of American Bicyclists (LAB) Insurance Seminar

Karl Hassler attended this seminar, which included information on a virtual National Bike Summit. Mark proposed, and it was seconded by Karl and passed unanimously, that Bike Newark would pay the registration fee for any members who wish to attend the National Bike Summit (bikeleague.org/summit), February 28–March 3. “February 28th will feature an afternoon of bike club-specific programming, including the highly-anticipated results of

SRAM’s research into successful clubs, as well as expert guidance on navigating your club through the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Report from Bike Delaware: John Bare shared an online event that will take place on January 27—“Are Complete Communities The Answer to Sprawl?” Registration is free (act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001kiUKAAY). It is a joint event with the Sierra Club and the League of Women Voters. He also informed the group that Bike Delaware has proposed three legislative bills. Information about each bill will be sent to all members separately. They include HB36 (to remove the sunset clause on the “Delaware Yield”), HB19 (defining an e-bike), and HB18 (enacting the Complete Communities Enterprise District). Future request to advocate for the passage of these bills may be necessary (legis.delaware.gov/AllLegislation).

BikeNewark Sharrows video: Greg D’Elia shared that the sharrows video is complete. It is posted on YouTube (youtu.be/a9bpJB8EGjg) and linked to on the “Other Resources” page of the BikeNewark website under the “Safety Videos” section. Everyone is encouraged to view the video and share it on social media. Thanks to Greg and the Newark Police Department for assistance with and promotion of the video. We hope to create more like this one.

Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes by Christine Schultz

2021 Bike Newark Financial Activity Statement				
1/21/2021				
		WSFS	PayPal	Total
Beginning balance 12/18/2020		\$ 6,706.23	\$ -	\$ 6,706.23
Additions:				
12/31/20	Membership- Burns		10.00	
12/17/20	Membership- Starnes		10.00	
12/31/20	Membership- Rosenberg		10.00	
12/31/20	Donation- Rosenberg		100.00	
1/3/01	Membership- Huntley		10.00	
1/4/01	Membership- D Schultz		10.00	
1/4/01	Membership- C Schultz		10.00	
1/4/01	Membership- Deshon		10.00	
1/4/01	Membership- Leipold		10.00	
1/12/21	Membership- Bahnson		10.00	
1/18/21	Membership- Saunders		10.00	
1/18/21	Donation- Saunders		100.00	
1/19/21	Membership- Lenhoff		10.00	
1/20/21	Membership- Hassler		10.00	
12/31/2020	interest	0.06		0.06
1/20/2021	Transfer PayPal-WSFS	306.52	(306.52)	0.00
Total additions		306.58	13.48	320.06
Deductions:				
12/20/2019	PayPal fee		13.48	13.48
				0.00
Total deductions		0.00	13.48	13.48
Surplus (deficit)		306.58	0.00	306.58
Ending balance 1/21/2021		\$ 7,012.81	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,012.81