



January Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022 (Virtual Meeting)

Bob McBride called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Member attendees: Bob McBride (Chair), Karen Rosenberg (Vice-Chair), Christine Schultz (Secretary), Karl Hassler (Treasurer), Mark Deshon, Helga Huntley, Dave Schultz, Victor Perez, and Kevin Monahan

Partner liaison attendees:

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

DelDOT: Paul Moser

University of Delaware: Chelsea Finch (Employee Health & Wellbeing) and William Wentz (Police)

Bike Delaware: John Bare

Delaware Greenways: Adam Crosby

City of Newark: Josh Solge (Planning & Development), Jean Almonte (Police)

Project and Partnership Reports

Emerson Bridge opening celebration and other publicity

A January opening ceremony was postponed to February due to weather.

Bob McBride suggested BikeNewark co-sponsor a cookout or lunch in the spring to celebrate the opening, perhaps with The Newark Partnership (TNP) or Newark Department of Parks & Recreation. Chelsea Finch will discuss with her colleagues if there is interest from UD Employee Health & Wellbeing or UD Recreation.

Recognition for Outgoing Newark Mayor

Mark Deshon suggested that BikeNewark send a thank you note to retiring mayor Jerry Clifton for his support of biking in Newark.

City of Newark Transportation Improvement District (TID) plan projects

The TID committee is creating a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Bob and Heather Dunigan attended the last meeting and shared discussion around the Marrows Road project. The proposed Elkton Road to Barksdale Road connector has been permanently tabled, since the estimated cost was \$46 million. BikeNewark members are encouraged to attend these public meetings, currently virtual on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

University of Delaware BikeShare task force

The committee has not met since our last meeting. Helga Huntley shared, at the Newark Conservation Advisory Committee meeting, that there was a request to work to change the Delaware law banning motorized scooters. Discussion ensued regarding the legislation and ebikes. Ofc. Jean Almonte shared the ordinances where people can learn more about the code—State Code title 21, Section 4198N and City of Newark ordinance Section 20-245.4.

Newark Bikeways wayfinding

Thank you to Mark and Victor Perez for creating video footage along two of the newest bikeways segments—the North and Northwest Bikeways. Kevin Monahan also has video he offered to share for use. Contact Bob and Mark with any ideas for how to use the footage. Adam Crosby offered to share them on the Greenways social media. Discussion ensued on how to get them recognized as bike paths on Google. Adam discussed how he did that for the JAM Trail and will write up the description. Mark also shared the link to view a blog post about the West Bikeways wayfinding signs (BikeNewark.org/blog). Mark noted that DelDOT had posted the signs on Elkton Road and the City is going to hold the signs BikeNewark paid for as back up. He hopes the Southwest Bikeway signs will be installed soon. New signs have been ordered for those that have been stolen on the Central Loop and North Bikeway.

Future Bikeways Extension

Paul Moser shared a map and suggested a possible Newark Bikeways extension along Route 4 south of the STAR Campus. It will be discussed in the next engineering committee meeting.

Planning

- Begin planning with City staff for its application for Bicycle Friendly Community status. The League of American Bicyclists (LAB) will open the application in May.
- Begin planning for Bike Month event(s). An ad hoc committee will be formed to plan events. Contact Bob to volunteer.
- We will continue to discuss how we can organize special events that include the Newark (through Newark Department of Parks & Recreation) and UD communities, which will include bike safety events.
- Form an ad hoc committee to work on update of *2014 Newark Bicycle Plan*. Josh Solge will discuss with Mike Fortner.
- Ideas for spring/summer events with The Newark Partnership (TNP) were discussed and included a bike-powered restaurant event with Main Street Alfresco night; co-sponsoring a Newark History Biking Tour with TNP and the Newark Historical Society; and First Friday Rides. Karl Hassler mentioned that we need to keep in mind insurance coverage limits for events for which BikeNewark is responsible.

List Achievable Goals for 2022

This discussion is tabled until the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was shared. About \$2,000 was spent on signs; after the addition of membership dues, we have a remaining balance of \$4,135.65.

Old and New Business

John Bare noted Bike Delaware will have an in-person Bike Summit in Dover in the spring. The focus will be on reducing bike and pedestrian fatalities. Bike Delaware will also share information about the Elkton Road pathways when they open. He also shared that the Lewes-Georgetown Trail project includes an extension for crossing Route 9.

Adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Minutes by Christine Schultz