



February Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2022 (Virtual Meeting)

Bob McBride called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Member attendees: Bob McBride (Chair), Karen Rosenberg (Vice-Chair), Christine Schultz (Secretary), Karl Hassler (Treasurer), Mark Deshon, Dave Schultz, and Rich Stickley

Partner liaison attendees:

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan
University of Delaware: Caitlin Olsen (Government Relations)
Bike Delaware: John Bare and James Wilson
Delaware Greenways: Adam Crosby
City of Newark: Ofc. Jean Almonte (Police)

Project and Partnership Reports

Emerson Bridge opening celebration and other publicity

There has been no update on a rescheduled date.

City of Newark Transportation Improvement District (TID) plan projects

Bob McBride and Heather Dunigan reported that most of the discussion during its last meeting was on plans for South College Avenue, including the I-95 junction and a potential off-road pathway around the Newark History Museum. A potential bikeway on UD's Central Campus adjacent to South College Avenue was also discussed. It would require removing some walls in the South College Avenue/Park Place area. Heather shared that the *2014 Newark Bicycle Plan* shows a place for a path on the campus side of the wall along South College Avenue. Bob encouraged thinking about creating a separate bike path from foot traffic on campus.

Newark Bikeways wayfinding

Bob and Mark Deshon will review Southwest Bikeway signs, which the City has in hand, in order to get them ready for installation. Those for Elkton Road may have to wait until the DelDOT project there is complete.

Planning

Bicycle Friendly Community status

Heather said that the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) will open the application in May. We need to begin planning with City staff to deal with the application process. Bob asked that

anyone who is interested in volunteering to work on the application contact him. Heather will help but does not want to lead the effort.

Updating the 2014 Newark Bicycle Plan

We need to form an ad hoc committee to work on an update of the *2014 Newark Bicycle Plan*. Volunteers are needed to help. Mark and Bob will also follow up with the City of Newark to confirm a contact from the City's Department of Planning & Development.

Events

Bike Month (May) events

Christine Schultz and Caitlin Olsen will confirm availability of UD space for an in-person event in May. This year National Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 20. Bob confirmed that The Newark Partnership is willing to partner. Christine suggested repeating the format of the 2021 event on a weekend in May somewhere along the Pomeroy Trail. It was fun and attracted a different audience than the weekday event. Karen Rosenberg shared that she and Barb Hughes had talked and will organize three family-friendly rides to be held in May, June, and September. The first one would be May 6, kicking off Bike Month. Insurance expectations were explained by Karl Hassler and will likely require a sign-in sheet for members and guests. Mark suggested the sign-in should have checkboxes indicating "member" and "guest" and that we should require all to sign our standard waiver. Bob suggested we see if Newark Department of Parks & Recreation would be willing to host a separate event during Bike Month.

Spring/summer events with The Newark Partnership (TNP)

Bob shared some ideas, include biking from a park to Main Street for a Main Street Alfresco Night, bike from UD or another location to a park lunch-and-learn picnic. Consensus was that these events would be a great way to promote the Newark Bikeways. This led to a discussion of how to populate Newark Bikeways in Google maps. Adam Crosby is willing to help us with this if possible. Karl Hassler confirmed that BikeNewark would join The Newark Partnership again for 2022.

List Achievable Goals for 2022

This discussion was tabled from the January meeting but included the following suggested items (1–6) in the agenda plus a suggestion (7) added during the meeting. The following were adopted as reasonable goals for 2022.

1. Complete wayfinding signage along the Southwest Bikeway.
2. Create information for bicyclists at the Emerson Bridge.
3. Secure a bike-parking proposal with co-sponsors The Newark Partnership, Newark Bike Project, and WILMAPCO.

Discussion ensued on the possibility of using existing in-garage parking spaces as part of Bike Friendly University progress.

4. Plan a UD on-campus bikeway.

Mark wondered who would advocate for this and with whom within the UD administration. Caitlin Olsen suggested focusing on getting student support—reaching out to the Graduate Student Association and Sustainability groups on campus. It was suggested that we should use our safety checkpoint events as a way to gather additional support for this idea.

5. Organize safety checkpoint events at UD and in the community (two each in the fall and spring).

6. Co-sponsor Bike to Work Day and Bike Month events with partner organizations.

7. Help the City of Newark submit a Bicycle Friendly Community application.

Treasurer's Report

Karl shared the treasurer's report. The initial balance was \$4,135.65. With an influx of dues and deductions for necessary annual payments, the ending balance was \$3,892.28.

Beginning balance 1/21/2022		\$ 4,135.65	\$ (0.00)	\$ 4,135.65
Additions:				
1/19/22	S McBride		10.00	10.00
1/20/22	L Lee		10.00	10.00
1/25/22	S Ravichandran		10.00	10.00
1/25/22	L Starnes		10.00	10.00
1/25/22	I Shah		10.00	10.00
1/26/22	M Brothers		10.00	10.00
1/26/22	B Bahnson		10.00	10.00
1/26/22	R Stickley		10.00	10.00
1/26/22	L Rossi		10.00	10.00
1/28/22	D Burnes		10.00	10.00
1/31/22	interest	0.03		0.03
2/16/22	Transfer PayPal-	91.60	(91.60)	
Total additions		91.63	8.40	100.03
Deductions:				
1/27/22	Amerispec Insura	235.00 [1]		
2/16/22	LAB dues 2021	75.00 [2]		
2/16/22	State of DE - 202	25.00 [3]		
2/16/22	PayPal fee -10 memberships @ .8		8.40	8.40
Total deductions		335.00	8.40	343.40
Surplus (deficit)		(243.37)	0.00	(243.37)
Ending balance 2/17/2022		\$ 3,892.28	\$ (0.00)	\$ 3,892.28

Old and New Business

John Bare shared that Bike Delaware was approached by the Friends of Cooch's Bridge for a trail connection project. While it is historically compelling to recreate the pathway from southern Newark through the Old Cooch's Bridge Road area, Heather reminded everyone of the bridge that is planned to be built in 2022 that crosses I-95 in that area. This could potentially tie-in the South Bikeway to Old Baltimore Pike. We hope to have more discussions with the Friends of Cooch's Bridge at a future BikeNewark meeting to see how we can encourage their ideas and coordinate any action with other bicycle groups.

Mark shared that he had met with City staff from the Department of Public Works & Water Resources and consultants from Rybinski Engineering about the Wyoming Road feasibility project back in December. No progress has been made to date, however.

The City of Newark did not receive a Bicycle Infrastructure Innovation Grant from the Delaware Bicycle Council, despite its three project applications, which BikeNewark helped write.

New member Rich Stickley was welcomed and asked to tell meeting attendees a little about himself. He shared that he is recently retired from the U.S. Armed Forces and has kids who ride bikes to school. He's interested in the Christina Valley Stream Trail and how this can help tie other routes/trails together and expressed a willingness to help with updating the *2014 Newark Bicycle Plan*.

Adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes by Christine Schultz