

Minutes July 2, 2025  
Meeting of the Board of Directors of The New York Cycle Club, Inc.  
Via Zoom

**ATTENDEES:** Colin Taber (President & Chair); Bob Cohen (Secretary); Bob Gilbert (Treasurer); Michael Diener (VP of Programs); Steve Vaccaro (VP of Rides); Anna Taruschio (A-Rides Coordinator); Jim Zisfein (C-Rides Coordinator); Meredith Weill (Volunteer Coordinator); Kym Blanchard (Marketing Director); Neile Weissman (Public Relations Director); Sheila O'Connor (Content Editor); Natan Elman (Webmaster); Leora Rosenberg (Past President).

**ABSENT:** YJ Chen (B-Rides Coordinator); Denise Alvarez-Heller (Events Coordinator); Allan Friedman (Escape New York Ride Director).

CALL TO ORDER: 18:50

1. MEETING MINUTES: Motion to approve April Minutes; motion passed. Motion to approve May Minutes; motion passed. As comments for the June Minutes were received late, the June Minutes will be presented for approval at the August meeting.

2. POPCORN UPDATES: (Each board member can share minor updates).

- Kym Blanchard—
  - The Marketing Committee is working on the 2026 Spring kit and is considering different designs. We plan to have the design info for presentation at the December Holiday Party.
  - The Young Majors program will begin September 20<sup>th</sup>, and we are looking for volunteers. We currently have three feeder high schools.
  - Sales are going well for ENY (reporting in Allan's absence), and we are working on the ENY specific jersey. Geoff Pomerantz has joined the Marketing Committee and has offered a few ideas for us to consider for ENY and board in general.
- Jim Zisfein—The C rides program is doing more than well. We have six rides in the ride listing within the next week, with lots of riders signed up.
- Neile Weissman—48 riders have enrolled for the New Paltz weekend (8/1 thru 8/3), including desired leaders. We have a good relationship with both New Paltz and the designated restaurant. C-SIG riders are signed up for the C-rides and are listed to lead.
- Steve Vaccaro—
  - The Best of NYCC program continues to recruit, including from B-SIG 16 graduates, to lead B16 rides. This weekend we have two rides with newly recruited B16 leaders in the offerings.
  - The NYCC Touring & Travel program will be posting a ride for next weekend.
- Michael Diener—
  - New Leaders Program-Denise is doing an excellent job with the program, matching our Guides to new Leaders. Currently we have fifteen Guides and ten new Leaders across A, B, & C levels.
  - Website Upgrade Week 26 results (the Website Upgrade Status page has more details <https://doc.clickup.com/1277402/p/h/16zeu-192551/c17e218ca89b09a>):
    - Adrian deployed an improved display of ride participants.
    - Rosie has created a Webflow test page and is ready to show to Sheila.
    - We are excited that Alice, a volunteer developer, is scoping the Attendee API for Webflow events.
    - The Stripe API epic is fully defined and ready for a developer to pick up.

- Meredith Weill—
  - The Incentives Award notifications have been sent.
  - Two SIG graduates who have been leading park laps expressed disappointment in what seemed to be a long wait for incentive points (i.e., 2025 activities are awarded in 2026). The group discussed some options to make awards available earlier, at least in some cases like new leaders/Siggies, more discussion is needed.

3. Earphone Policy Discussion: The Board passed a motion to adopt the following and include it the Club’s policy page on our website, relevant documentation, and as a Newsletter item to alert membership:

- “NYCC prohibits the wearing of earphones in both ears on Club rides. Earphones in one ear or bone-conducting headphones may be permitted at the discretion of ride leaders, but only for voice navigation, and not on A-level rides where all earphones and listening devices are prohibited.”

4. Metro-North Changes to Ride Booking Procedure:

- Neile reported that Metro-North Railroad (“MNR”) changed how it accepts bike group reservations, from accepting submission of a spreadsheet containing multiple rides, to an online form requiring each train to be entered separately. Of concern is that MNR’s new system would potentially add dozens of hours of work per year. Also of concern, the new system does not generate a report which would allow NYCC to identify and deconflict rides sharing the same train. This seems particularly troublesome during the SIG-STS, which entails reserving capacity on some two hundred trains. Encouragingly, MNR officials said that they are now aware of the difficulties, are assessing their options, and will schedule a meeting to review.

5. Ride Leader Requirements:

- Further to the Board’s discussion last month of suggestions on what to include in a document to be published along the lines of requirements to lead a ride; guidelines; and responsibilities, a committee was formed to create such a document and present to the Board for consideration, review, modification as necessary, and its ultimate adoption.

ADJOURN: 20:10