

Minutes of the February 3, 2015 Meeting
of the
Board of Directors
of the
New York Cycle Club

Present were: Neile Weissman (President), Susan Sun (Treasurer, attending by phone), Israel Forst (Webmaster), Yvette Kotic (Special Events Coordinator), Katharine Green (Public Relations Director), Brian Van Nieuwenhoven (Editor), Kitty Dare (A Rides Coordinator), Jim Finder (B Rides Coordinator), Michael S Bernstein (C Rides Coordinator) and Peter Storey (Secretary)

Neile called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

1. ***Report / Introduction of the A Rides Coordinator.***

Kitty introduced herself to the Board. She started cycling about two years ago. Her background is in forming strategic partnerships. In addition to her duties as A Rides Coordinator, she would be interested in contributing that experience to the Club, whether in the context of joint fund-raising, shared mailing lists or in other areas.

2. ***Incentives.***

Neile announced that Michael had agreed to take responsibility for incentives. Neile and Michael will go to the storage locker, clean it out and surrender it. Meanwhile, two bike shops have agreed to act as distribution points for our incentive merchandise: Toga (Upper West Side) and NYC Velo (Second Avenue).

Israel reported that his project to create software whereby leaders and other volunteers can report their own points continues. The user would specify which shop he or she wants to use and, when their merchandise is picked up, the shop would cross them off the list.

3. ***Badges.***

Israel noted that a volunteer had agreed to do graphic work for additional website badges. There was a discussion of what new badges should be created. Among the suggestions were badges for (a) Lifetime Member, (b) past Board member and (c) in addition to the existing badges for leaders of 50 and 100 rides, some kind of qualitative recognition for accomplished ride leaders. There followed some discussion of the rider feedback and leader ratings issue discussed by the 2014 Board at its November meeting. It was agreed that further discussion of this issue was necessary between meetings, and no action was taken at this time.

4. ***Report of the Special Events Coordinator.***

Yvette reported on the status of our various special events as follows:

Volunteer Party. Yvette announced that the Volunteer Party was set for February 25. So far 30 people have signed up. The party has been announced on the message board and the website carousel. Katharine volunteered to do an announcement on the Facebook page as well. Yvette is looking for approximately 60 guests for the event.

Newcomers' Ride. The Newcomers' Ride will be held on June 7 at the Rye Beach Pavilion. Food providers will be determined. Brian recommended that a raffle and other program elements be added to the lunch. This raises the question of whether all the rides should converge on the destination at the same time. The consensus was "probably", but further discussion is in order.

Berkshires Weekend. It was noted that the happy hour needs to be booked soon. Neile urged Yvette to contact John Semel, last year's Special Events Coordinator, for suggestions on how best to do this.

All class ride. The All Class Ride will probably take place at the beginning of August. Yvette had no further details at this time.

Clean Up Ride. As before, the cleanup ride will take place in September. The question was raised whether the adopt-a-highway program requires a second (actually first) Clean Up Ride to be held during the Spring. Jerry Ross (VP Rides) will follow up on this.

July 4th Weekend. Neile noted that our past arrangements with the Thayer Hotel at West Point are expensive, require significant minimum guarantees and, last year, nearly resulted in a significant loss to the Club. He has been exploring the possibility of relocating the July 4 Weekend to one of the colleges in Poughkeepsie or alternatively in New Paltz. In his view, both locations would provide better routes and, particularly in the case of Poughkeepsie, would provide better proximity to transportation. In addition, both alternatives would be significantly less expensive for club members. It was:

Resolved to proceed further with the Poughkeepsie/New Paltz proposal.

5. *Montauk Ride Proposal.*

Brian noted that the 5BBC has abandoned the Montauk Century as a mass ride. Glenn Goldstein's alternative Ride to Montauk has gotten quite expensive. Brian is proposing that the Club create its own ride to Montauk as a Club ride. It would be necessary to rent a truck and driver to return the bikes to New York, and to insure the bikes, and therefore we would need to charge for the ride. When asked why members could not arrange a similar ride or rides on their own, Brian noted that without return transportation, the distances are too great, unless one stays overnight. It was thought generally that this would be a good test of the Club's logistical capabilities. Demand is not in question, as Glenn Goldstein's ride draws about 3300 riders and the 5BBC ride historically about 1600. After discussion, no action was taken at this time.

6. *Advocacy Report.*

Neile reported on recent advocacy efforts, emphasizing that, in selecting advocacy issues, four filters should be applied, Specifically: (1) advocacies that safeguard or enhance the Club's

ability to provide activities for members; (2) issues not being addressed by outside advocacy groups; (3) issues where we can effectively collaborate; and (4) issues that one or more individual members are prepared to adopt as their own.

Two issues that we are actively involved in are bicycle usage in Central Park and expansion of the George Washington Bridge bike facility.

With respect to Central Park, promotion of the Central Park Protocol that the Club was heavily involved in crafting continues. At the same time a 20 mph speed limit throughout the City's parks has been proposed in the City Council and we are examining how best to head that off.

With respect to the GWB, the Port Authority's current proposal will self-obsolete in a few years, given bicycle traffic growth on the bridge, unless the existing paths are built out to the same standards as were used a few years ago on the Williamsburg Bridge. Some groups have acquiesced in the PA's proposal, but NYCC and others are holding out for the higher standard. Manhattan Community Board #12 has recently joined our position, and the PA's response to our most recent proposal was not unfavorable. Neile referenced the further materials located at www.completegeorge.org and noted that this advocacy could well extend well past the current Board's tenure, possibly for several years.

7. *Ride Leader Training.*

At the end of the meeting, the Board returned to the question of ride leader quality raised in its discussion of badges, above. Yvette suggested that the badge be given for completing a ride leader training course. Peter suggested that ride leader training should be an included component of the SIG. Brian and Yvette both countered that the SIG Coordinators and Captains have generally resisted that charge in the past and that that view was unlikely to change. In effect, the question was framed whether ride leader training should be part of the SIG or a follow-on activity. Further discussion was postponed pending Neile's discussion of the issue with the SIG Coordinators.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Peter Storey,
Secretary