

## Delaware County Cycling Committee of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia

September 28, 2010 7 pm

Home of David Bennett

**Attending:** David Bennett, Chair; Mike Broennle [DVBC; CCCC; PaECG], Jeff Cao [CBW], Larry Green [DVBC; Swarthmore Ped-Bike Task Force], Scott Maits [DCVA; Caretaker, historic Blue Bell Inn on Cobbs Creek; PaECG], Ann Martha [Newtown Square, DVBC], Jeannie Moberly [Upper Darby], Fred Rothman [CCCC], Parker Snowe [Upper Providence Twp, Haverford College].

After a delicious spaghetti dinner featuring David's homemade sauces and Fred's cheese, we began our agenda.

### 1. County and regional updates

A. **Lansdowne Borough:** D Bennett reported a grant application for the bike plan has been submitted.

B. **Millbourne Borough** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millbourne,\\_Pennsylvania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millbourne,_Pennsylvania): D Bennett reported for Jeanette MacNeille, committee member who is out of town. She is Chair of Millbourne Borough Council. They have 3 issues: To continue Cobbs Creek Greenway north; to develop the former Sears site into mixed residential use, park land including historic Sellers Dam, and a bike trail; and to develop Market St as gateway to Philadelphia.

C. **Haverford Twp:** D Bennett reported resident Peter Puglionesi, an environmental engineer and experienced bike planner, wants to improve cycling access to the former Haverford State Hospital site <http://www.angelfire.com/realm3/wardc/future>, now being developed as a residential / athletic field / open space area. Haverford Twp will also be crossed by the proposed Radnor – Tinicum Trail extending the existing Radnor Trail to the John Heinz Refuge <http://blog.bicyclecoalition.org/2010/06/vision-for-trail-from-radnor-to-john.html>.

D. **Upper Providence Twp:** P Snowe reported despite voters authorizing a bond issue to preserve public land, the township council at their 8/10 mtg authorized sale of a portion of the Lavin Tract, 1020 Ridley Creek Rd

[http://www.upperprovidence.org/month\\_links.php?pDir=council\\_agenda&pTitle=&strMonth=08.html](http://www.upperprovidence.org/month_links.php?pDir=council_agenda&pTitle=&strMonth=08.html). Residents are protesting. PS will keep us informed.

C. **Haverford College:** P Snowe reported the death of cyclist commuter Professor Russell Garrett has had a big impact. He also reported each Spring departing seniors leave numerous bicycles behind. He will provide a facilities contact for J Cao regarding potential donations to Chester Bike Works.

D. **Upper Darby Twp:** D Bennett introduced Jeannie Moberly, recently moved from Davis CA, and is interested in bicycling development, as a new committee representative from Upper Darby. He reported a RFP has been submitted for the proposed Newtown Square Rail Line [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newtown\\_Square\\_Branch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newtown_Square_Branch) – Darby Creek Greenway. Unfortunately Upper Darby granted a zoning variance for development near Drexelbrook reducing the riparian barrier from 50' to 5'.

E. **Darby Borough:** S Maits reported a 1.5 block section of greenway from Main St crossing Chester Ave along the trolley tracks to McDade Blvd will be dedicated at 9 am on Oct 2. There is historical signage. There is a plan to restore the pony truss trolley bridge as a ped pathway. This will provide a back road link to the Pa ECG.

F. **Newtown Township/Square:** A Martha recently moved to Newtown Twp. Cycling conditions there need improvement. There is 1 mi of a proposed 4 mi gravel bike path in the vicinity of Bishop Hallow Rd that is in poor condition. Bishop Hallow Rd, popular with cyclists, has confusing speed limits and speeders. High traffic volume makes riding through the corporate center hazardous during business hours.

G. **Neighborhood Bike Works:** D Bennett reported that NBW was granted a zoning variance to remain at its headquarters in St. Mary's Church on the Penn campus. Its founding executive director, Andy Dyson is leaving. Catherine "Kitty" Heite, previously associated with NBW, has been appointed new Executive Director <http://www.neighborhoodbikeworks.org/>.

H. **Chester Neighborhood Bike Works:** J Cao briefly described the history and current activities at CNBW <http://www.chesterbikes.org/>. He summarized the program: "It's not about the bike; it is about the kids." There is an opportunity to be a cycling advocate volunteering for CNBW. Jeff is funded by AmeriCorp. CNBW is one of 10 programs joined together in Chester Initiatives. SM, an AmeriCorp veteran, offered suggestions re getting further funding from AmeriCorp.

I. **East Coast Greenway:** M Broennle and S Maits reported on the Pa ECG, in Delaware County extending from the John Heinz Refuge to Marcus Hook with the interim on-road route on 420, 291 and 13. We're working on signage. There will be a 35 mi fundraising bike tour of the northern Greenway, current and future, on Sat Oct 16.

J. **PennDOT:** D Bennett reported he will be joining with BCGP and CCCC representatives for a meeting with the District Administrator regarding safety concerns associated with chip and tar associated with 2 recent injured cyclists in Embreeville, Chester County and insufficient cycling accommodations on West Chester Pike /SR 3 at the I-476 interchange where Prof Russell Garrett was fatally injured when struck from behind by a distracted motorist in July.

K. **Chester Creek Branch Trail** <http://www.chestercreektrail.org/>: D Bennett reported the PA DCNR, Dept of Parks and Recreation is seeking return of approximately \$300K, a potentially devastating blow to this project.

L. **BCGP Suburban County Committee:** D Bennett reported the BCGP has embarked on an effort to improve support and interaction with suburban members with a third meeting schedule tomorrow [9/29/10]

M. **Swarthmore Borough:** L Green reported the borough's Street Use committee with a strong pedestrian influence, has resulted in cross walks and curb cuts. Cycling friendly routes have been identified but the challenge is how to sign them. Sharrows were recommended.

N. **Bike the Pike:** D Bennett reported a DE County cycling commuter, Anne Spiegelman, seizing on the tragic death of Russell Garrett, has stimulated a demonstration, organized with DB and staff of the BCGP [Sarah Stewart and Breen Goodwin] for the morning and evening rush hours, Wed and Thu, 9/29-30 at the Rt 3 / I-476 interchange. He has spoken with the parents of Russell Garrett...they are very supportive of the effort to prevent future cycling tragedies.

## 2. New business

A. **Cobbs Creek Connector:** S Maits reported a steering committee is being formed to plan for the Cobbs Creek Connector from 70<sup>th</sup> St to the Heinz Refuge. May need more cyclists on the committee.

**Next meeting** to be announced.

Adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Affiliations: CBW Chester Bike Works; CCCC Chester County Cycling Committee; DCVA Darby Creek Valley Assoc ; DVBC Delaware Valley Bicycle Club; PaECG PA Committee, East Coast Greenway.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Broennle