

Delaware County Cycling Committee of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
Minutes of Meeting

November 29, 2011 7:30pm

Home of David Bennett

Attending: David Bennett (Chair), Larry Green(DVBC; Swarthmore Ped-Bike Task Force), Richard Kerr (Haverford Walks & Bikes), Scott Maits(DCVA; Caretaker, historic Blue Bell Inn on Cobbs Creek; PaECG;DCVA Board), Jeannie Moberley (Upper Darby), Linda McGrane(BCP,BVGP,SCU,DVBC) and Parker Snowe (Upper Providence Township; Haverford College,BCGP past president).

1. County and Regional Updates for 2011

A. West Chester Pike I-476 Interchange Area: David reviewed the history – the collision death of commuting cyclist Prof. Russell Garrett in July 2010, the “Bike the Pike” event and surrounding publicity, and a letter sent to PennDOT requesting safety improvements. PennDOT, DelCo Planning, BCGP, Marple and Haverford townships and others met this summer, with PennDOT presenting possible improvements. David and Rich conducted roadside counts in July of cyclist and pedestrian use of the Pike through the interchange area for submittal to Marple Township. In late summer PennDOT undertook work to create continuous usable shoulders on the Pike through the entire interchange area in both directions. This involved narrowing traffic lanes in some stretches to create a wider striped shoulder area, and removing paint in a band through “zebra striped” areas for cyclists to use. Long exit and entry ramps on West Chester Pike remain an issue.

B. Valley Forge to Heinz Refuge Trail:David reported this expansion of the Radnor Trail in both directions gained momentum when a supporting coalition sought and received resolutions or letters from a number of townships and boroughs along the proposed route, in support of conducting a feasibility study. It was hoped Delaware County Planning would administer the study and a grant application was prepared, but the Planning Department could not handle this work on such a quick basis. Funding of the study will be sought in future grant cycles.

C. Chester Creek Rail Trail: David reported that planning remains underway, with support from Delaware County Planning, for this trail along the Chester Creek Branch right-of-way along the creek, disused since being flood damaged in the early 1970s. The Feasibility Study was completed in 2002 for Friends of Chester Creek Branch. Engineering is proceeding for Phase I (Lenni Road toCreek Road) in Middletown and Aston townships.

D. Chester Bikes: David reported that this “Bike Works” type community project transitioned from a Swarthmore College program to a Chester Housing Authority program. The new director is Jesse Marshall. Because the workshop area also needs to be accessible to housing maintenance staff, it cannot be locked and tools have disappeared. A Spring restart is expected.

E. Haverford Township Advocacy: Rich reported that this summer Haverford applied for and received a \$290,000 DVRPC Regional Trails Program grant funded by the William Penn Foundation. This grant will cover Phase 1 of a long-sought multi-use trail along Darby Creek, the west boundary of the township. Phase I goes from Merry Place / Glendale Park northward to the township Public Works Yard just south of West Chester Pike. This was the only Delaware County project awarded in this first round of funding. A volunteer “Haverford Bikes and Walks” committee has been created to advise the township on such matters and is performing a Bicycle Level of Service / Bikeability analysis of township roads. A “Friends of Haverford Trails” group has been established in support of trails and bike routes in the township, and presented a public forum this Fall. Improved bike access to the new “Y” being built has been secured.

F. Lansdowne – Yeadon: David reported on an effort to extend the Elm Street Bike Lane project from Lansdowne into Yeadon. Plans are being made for an outreach campaign to parents and their kids in the Spring.

G. East Coast Greenway: David discussed the need for installation of route signage along Delawarecounty's portion of the Greenway. Scott presented a concept to modify the proposed route slightly to take advantage of streetscapes and historic attractions in the Chester area.

H. Cobbs Creek Trail: Scott reported that design "open houses" have been held. Funding for construction will be sought. This involves the lower section of the trail, from Market Street to 70th Street, where linkage to the Heinz Refuge trails can be made.

I. Haverford College Advocacy: Parker reported that he is in the process of achieving League of American Bicyclists certified instructor status to teach LAB's cycling courses. He is interested in promoting cycling both in the general area and within the Haverford College community.

J. Historic Cynwyd Trail: David reported that Lower Merion Township (which is part of DCCC's territory) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open this two-mile trail on October 23. A planned and funded multi-use trail/park atop the Schuylkill River concrete arch rail bridge will link the Cynwyd Trail to the Schuylkill River Trail in Manayunk. Public concept meetings were recently held to advance this next step.

K. Chester Valley Trail: In the absence of Mike Broennle, it was reported that Phase I is completed and Phase II is to begin in Spring.

L. Other Chester County News: David reported that Chester County opened the Cromby to Spring City section of Phase I of its portion on October 25. Rich attended. Further work and Phase II will extend north from to US 422, and Phoenixville is working on funding and constructing its missing segments. David reported that the Chester County Cycling Coalition, our neighboring sister group, is being led by Ellen Zadoff and is investigating creating its own website.

M. Bike Delaware: David reported that Delaware is seriously funding biking improvements. In October the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement to create a statewide system of bicycle and pedestrian pathways and trails.

N. Spring Garden Street Greenway: This Penn. Environmental Council revitalization project has held outreach meetings to advance the project. It will become an East Coast Greenway link between the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers.

O. Wild and Crazy Bikes Event: Jeannie reported she is drumming up interest for a kinetic bike type of event on the western side of the metro region.

2. DCCC Grants

David led a discussion on how best to use this Coalition's \$2000 budget for bike advocacy work and projects. Potential recipients and amounts were preliminarily vetted. Further discussions will be conducted by email prior to our next meeting.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for late January or early February, at Jeannie Moberley's home.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kerr