

## Delaware County Cycling Committee May 2008 Meeting Minutes

Eat, drink, and be productive. That's the modus operandi used by Committee Chair David Bennett to encourage cycling enthusiasts to come out and advocate, and it works.

At their May 20, 2008 meeting, members Michael Broennle, Justin Dula, Larry Green, Jeanette MacNeille, guest Fred Rothman from the Chester County Cycling Coalition, and Dominick Zuppo joined David to review current and future projects. After a pasta dinner that included salad greens from David's garden, the meeting was called to order at 7:51 P.M.

Being an election year, the Committee discussed the development of a cycling advocacy questionnaire. This document would be distributed to candidates running for Federal, state, and local government offices in an attempt to gauge their support for bicycling and pedestrian facilities. Taking a cue from the comments made by Congressmen Joe Sestak at the BCGP 2008 annual meeting, the Committee sought to join forces with other organizations, including the Sierra Club and the League of Women Voters, and learn from their political experience. Jeanette even proposed a speaker's event to debate the pros and cons of alternative transportation.

Many groups fashion their own traditions, and the DCCC is no exception. In order to keep track of the many projects in our area, we use our cerebral maps to circumnavigate the county and review them:

Darby Creek Greenway. The Committee continues to monitor this project. According to the Delaware County Planning Department (DCPD), the "vision for this greenway is to have a continuous ribbon of open space from one end of Darby Creek to the other. It is the intention, where feasible, to make green connections along tributary streams as well, thus connecting destination 'hubs'." Walking and bicycle trails are also planned.

East Coast Greenway. The Marcus Hook project is back on track with a new two-phase plan. David attended two meetings where state and regional bodies, including Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, PennDOT, DCPD, Catania Engineering, Marcus Hook Borough officials, and the East Coast Greenway Alliance came to a compromise in order to proceed and save the Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant for Marcus Hook.

Ride of Silence. This year's event included rides in Philadelphia and West Chester, PA. Michael attended the West Chester ride, where 25 cyclists rode in a silent, single file in remembrance of those injured or killed while bicycling.

First Suburbs Project. Justin shared information about a new group, the Southeastern Pennsylvania First Suburbs Project, which describes itself as a "regional coalition of community leaders from developed suburbs that have joined together to harness their communities' statewide power by directly engaging citizens to affect policies and practices that will lead to the stabilization and revitalization of their communities." It is the Committee's hope to work with the Project and provide guidance on cycling and pedestrian issues.

Additional Projects. While not reviewed at this meeting, the Committee also tracks progress on the Chester Creek Branch Rail Trail, pedestrian and cycling facility improvements along the Conchester Highway, and the US 202 widening project.

Finally, the Committee took advantage of the work performed during a BCGP brainstorming session and discussed its own future and vision for 2030. Topics included leadership and delegation of duties by the Committee Chair, solicitation and expansion of the membership, and organization of the active members of the Committee.

With our time exhausted and an October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting scheduled, Dominick moved and Jeanette seconded for adjournment at 9:45 P.M.