

Regular Meeting
Weston Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee
Wednesday March 9, 12:30
Commission Room, Weston Town Hall

Present Ray Rauth, Carole, Berg, Julie Sidhu

I. Opening Business- Meeting opened 12:37

I.1 Chair's remarks- Due to time limits Ray incorporated remarks into meeting topics.

I.2 Approval of January Minutes

Motioned by Carole, Seconded by Julie

I.3 Project Management: Discussion/Decision

Ray noted that we are at a critical point in active transportation history in town. We have supportive town leadership in Nina Daniels and our other selectmen as well as many town agencies; Senior Center, Parks and Rec, etc. plus the state has a number of initiatives that lean towards a renewed interest in active transportation. With so many avenues open to us we need to focus on ways to keep interest and movement going. Ray suggested rather than all of us working towards one big project we each take responsibility for guiding one that we are particularly interested in and direct the rest of us with tasks and help as necessary, updating committee members along the way. Carole noted that she is not a hiker or cyclist and would prefer to work on projects that reflect her interests. Ray and Julie agreed that there are plenty of opportunities within the group for non-active projects and assignments, noting it is much easier to get things done when we play to our strengths and interests.

II. Events & Programs

II.1 BBPE (Big Bike Ped Event) – Discussion/Decision: Do we want to do this? Is it too late for this year? Who will spearhead it? The committee would like this event to go ahead, but also wants to pursue other avenues; hence we need to bring on other organizations. In the past we collaborated with Youth Services. Ray will speak with Eric and Michelle to see if they would like to lead this. Carole will approach The Women's League and Julie will poll "Moms of Weston" to see if we can get a volunteer list of folks interested in helping youth services to put this on. We will act in an advisory capacity regarding the course and set up, safety etc. as well as approach our former sponsor, Cycle Dynamics, to provide bicycle maintenance and helmet support once a date, if any, is set.

II.2 Bike Training Rides (Walter)- Tabled until Walter available. Julie is willing to act as sweep on rides if required.

II.3 Woody Walks Weston- Woody, Ray and Wendy met at the Senior Center to discuss Woody's idea of a walking group of seniors or others in town interested in doing the same. Ray offered advice and has safety brochures etc. to share with anyone interested in this project.

II.4 Trail Bike Ride(s) (Julie, Carlyne) As soon as the weather is better and after Carlyne's Boston Marathon, Julie and Carlyne will take a ride to Trumbull Trail, beginning at Tait Rd. to inspect the condition of trail. A date will be set then for a guided spring ride. Julie suggested perhaps we could do the same ride twice. Once on a weekend morning and another midweek for moms and dads who might want to check it out and do it by themselves with their family.

II.5 Hike Schedule: Bisceglie Hike (Ray) scheduled May 3rd. Julie will add a walk of the old part of NRVT from Wilton High School Tennis Courts to the town center (possibly beyond) in April- tentatively Wednesday April 27th.

II.6 Cross-State walk (Ray)Ray is planning to walk the approximately 120 miles from state line to state line. Ridgefield CT to Westerly, R.I. Possibly June 13th or 14th. His mission is to show folks that it is possible to walk safely great distances.

III. Roads & Trails

III.1 Bisceglie Trail- One project discussed last year with then selectman, Gail Weinstein, was the connection of two open space parcels of land; Bisceglie Park and the Galliene property. This would require a wooden bridge like structure across the pond, but would result in a beautiful extension of Bisceglie. Timber and Stone, a company from Vermont have built beautiful bridges on the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) in Wilton.

III.2 Great Upper Weston Link Trail-Ray noted that all of the interested parties are in approval of pursuing this ideal to link the various trails

III. 3 WIS/Town Hall exploration

III.4 Lyons Plains Road Narrowing/Shoulder Widening: This is a doable project that would see lanes narrowed from 12ft to 11 or 10 feet as allowed by the state and would benefit safe walking and cycling. Julie and Ray previously surveyed and measure Lyons Plains and noted that a wider walking/cycling shoulder could easily be secured if the overgrown grass verges were cut back and the lines redrawn at the roads next line painting. This idea needs to be presented to the Police Commission. A special meeting is needed to put together a presentation. Carole inquired as to the width on the Westport end. Ray noted that we had only studied the Weston portion from Davis Hill down to the Westport line.

Carole and Ray discussed Carole researching the effect on narrowing of road lane widths.

Meeting adjourned.