

Final

Minutes of the December 6, 2016 Meeting
of the
Board of Directors
of the
New York Cycle Club

Present were: Christy Guzzetta (President), Jerry Ross (VP Rides), Eden Weiss (VP Programs), Steve Musso (Treasurer), Brian Van Nieuwenhoven (Editor), Neile Weissman (Immediate Past President), Jim Finder (B Rides Coordinator), Michael S. Bernstein (C Rides Coordinator) and Peter Storey (Secretary).

Also present by invitation were: Margaret Kim (Membership Director – elect), Michael Gately (A Rides Coordinator – elect), Bob Gilbert (Special Events Coordinator – elect), Karla Bonne (C Rides Coordinator – elect), Linda Wintner (Escape New York Director - elect) and Michelle Gordon (Content Editor – elect)(by telephone).

Christy called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Introduction of New Board Members.

The meeting opened with each of those joining the Board in 2017 being introduced, and the old Board members introduced themselves in turn.

2. Approval of November Minutes.

On motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the November meeting were **approved**.

3. SIG Registration.

Brian reported that the necessary components for this year's SIG registration were coming together and will be ready in time for the start of the SIG season.

4. Clean-Up Ride.

Jerry reported that the Fall Clean-up ride had been a success, with just the right number of riders participating. The fixed amount (\$10) voucher system previously discussed was used, for a total lunch expense to the Club of \$300.

Final

5. Treasurer's Report.

Steve reported that we currently have \$137,969.87 in checking and savings. Late-received ENY expenses having brought us down from \$150,000. Steve referred to a preliminary budget outline, which he circulated and asked for comments and suggestions offline.

Steve estimated that the ENY net will be "several" thousand dollars. In light of that, he recommended that we forego the usual ENY volunteer party, which typically costs about \$5,000.

6. Programs.

Eden reported that the January Club meeting will be titled "The Advocates: Priorities for 2017" and will be presented by Paul Steely White of Transportation Alternatives and Cyndi Steiner of the New Jersey Bike / Walk Coalition. The meeting will be sponsored by Pactimo, who will contribute \$1500 in merchandise to the raffle and a further \$300 in contest prizes.

February's meeting will be our usual SIG / STS information session and will be sponsored by Rapha.

The March and April meetings have been planned. Details will follow.

7. Holiday Party.

Bob Gilbert reported that we're all set for the December 7th party. Food has been ordered and we are allowed to order more, if need be. Bob expects about 120 guests, which represents a sold-out event with plenty of unmet demand. Next year we may well require a larger space. Eden raised the possibility that next year we might consider Connolly's, but objection was raised that the Holiday Party should use a venue different from that used for monthly meetings. Michael Gately endorsed the idea of a larger venue, saying that Club events should not have the effect of excluding members who wish to participate.

8. Trial Membership.

Substantive discussion was postponed in the absence of the Webmaster.

9. New Member Outreach.

A publicity piece about the Club addressed to ENY participants who evinced an interest in membership went out today. Christy complimented Margaret on the piece.

Final

In this connection, Christy reiterated his idea that we should make an arrangement with bike shops that would give purchasers of new bikes a free membership until the end of the year of purchase. The Board seemed generally supportive, but no action was taken at this time.

10. *Liability Waiver.*

Jerry began by summarizing the overall waiver and insurance picture, including that a rider, by signing up for a ride, is deemed to have (re) consented to our liability waiver. He reported that the Webmaster felt that an "I Agree" button, instead of the deemed waiver, was more trouble than it was worth. As for (re) consenting to the waiver on signing up for a SIG series, Jerry recalled that we already require that.

11. *Backup Issues.*

Christy expressed the view that the sensitive positions for which we should have backup plans in the event of the unavailability of the incumbent are Webmaster, Treasurer, Membership Director and Content Editor.

Bob Gilbert suggested that backup access should not be given to another officer but to the incumbent's predecessor in the job, even though that person was unlikely to be serving on the Board at that time. Eden stressed the importance of departing officers preparing "hand-off documents" describing their responsibilities and how they discharge them and storing those documents on the Club's Google Drive.

Bob Gilbert and Jerry were added to the committee chaired by Brian and Steve that was created last month to study these issues.

12. *Anonymous Members.*

Jim identified two cases of members whose membership data, especially their emergency contact information (but in some cases their name as well), is incomplete or obviously made up. This is unfair to ride leaders who may find themselves accompanying such a member to the hospital and being unable to provide a name or to contact anyone on the member's behalf.

It was noted that it is Club Policy that members must provide complete membership information, and that failure to do so represents a violation of Club policy. That, in turn, is grounds for expulsion from the club under the By-Laws. The following procedure was agreed on for these cases: (i) the relevant ride coordinator or another officer will request the member to provide the necessary information; (ii) if unavailing, the Board will decide whether to proceed with a warning letter under Section 4 of Article II of the By-Laws, or whether extenuating circumstances exist; and (iii) if the necessary information is not forthcoming in response to such a letter, and after any hearing requested by the member under that provision, the Board will vote on whether to expel the member.

Final

13. New Paltz Weekend.

Neile circulated a handout concerning last July's New Paltz weekend, a copy of which was ordered filed with the minutes.

After consultation with the people at SUNY, Neile would like to move the 2017 weekend to the weekend of July 7-9 (the 4th will be a Tuesday in 2017). Doing so will give us even better rates than we presently enjoy, and will be easier for SUNY to staff.

Thus far (2015 and 2016), the weekend has been self-supporting. For 2017, Neile asked for an investment of \$2,500 of Club funds and a further \$1,000 contingency. The funds would be used to expand participation in the weekend, chiefly by bringing the price down even further.

A lively discussion followed. Concern was expressed that neither of the past two weekends had included A rides and that participation was relatively small compared to historic figures for the West Point weekend. Some directors felt that the weekend was already more than affordable and that there was no reason to subsidize it. In the end, the Board declined to authorize the investment at this time, but encouraged Neile to continue to develop his plans for the 2017 weekend.

14. Calendar.

Bob Gilbert volunteered to rough out a calendar of Club events for 2017 and circulate it to the Board for comments and suggestions. This suggestion was gratefully received.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Peter K. Storey, Secretary