



Meeting Notes

Albany Bicycle Coalition Monthly Meeting

1/28/21

7:00 PM – via Zoom

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Election of acting President (Lorenz) – Ed Brennan elected Acting President pending formal elections for all officers in April. Ed will assume his duties immediately and will conduct the February meeting. Ed and Lorenz will work on a smooth transition.

Reports –

- **Treasurer Report** (David P.) – Two reports presented. Tax form filed. Proposed sending a dues reminder email to ABC's e-list. (Dues are due on 1/1/21.)
- **Transport Troy Update** (Pam) – Transport Troy met on 1/27. Presentation on the Congress St. Bridge with possible improvements. New initiative on “beautifying” the “under the bridge” areas on Hoosick St. beneath the Collar City Bridge. See - [Troy wants to bridge Hoosick Street divide with art \(timesunion.com\)](#)
- **Cycle Schenectady Report** – (Email report from Art) – Big news is the safe streets campaign launched with the city's neighborhood association umbrella group, Schenectady United Neighborhoods. We are calling for a Complete Streets ordinance, reduction of city speed limit from 30 to 25 mph, progress on 2017 bike master plan (adopted by the city and forgotten), and addressing dangerous streets and intersections. We will have a March Zoom presentation (to which city officials will be invited) on the bike master plan. Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council wants to see what they can do to help us. We are ready to participate in an incipient regional approach to bike advocacy. Events we are considering are as follows: April reopening of bike trail in the city, Earth Day bike tour of Vale Park in late April, bike rodeo in May, a summer program in Central Park with school children (on safety education, bike handling skills, fixing flats, etc.), bike day in Central Park in August, a couple of “slow rolls” in June and September, two joint rides with the Environmental Clearinghouse, and the joint ride with ABC.

Old Business –

- **Albany Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan** (Ed) – No updates. No action on Albany Common Council calendar. Waiting for release of final report.
- **Root Damage MHBHT** (David) – Assembly member Steck working on the issue along with Joe O'Brien from the Albany County legislature. J. O'Brien is introducing a resolution whereby Albany County will take responsibility for the trail. All members encouraged to contact their Albany County legislators as soon as we have a bill number. Those not residing in Albany County can contact the legislative chairman. Ed will get the number.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee CDTC** (John) – Presentation on an E. Greenbush project to tie into the (now completed) Albany-Hudson Electric Trail. Will include a new crossing of Rt. 20 near the high school. Charles Welge (Director of Public Health Planning and Education, Charles.Welge@albanycountyny.gov) is now the Albany County contact on bicycle- and Complete Streets-related topics. Safety initiative on the Central Ave. corridor between Dott Ave. and Everett Rd.
- **Misc. Street Projects in Albany** (Lorenz) – Letter to mayor on many outstanding issues to be recirculated for review. The letter will merely highlight the issues ABC believes have been overlooked. We will not call for a meeting at this time.

- **Connector Enhancements** (Mark) – No response from Albany Common Council members in Wards 1 and 2. Will follow up with dunning
- **Walking-Riding Collaboration** (Ed) – Very good meeting with the Walkers with several areas of common concern. We learned about the so-called Washington Park transportation/utilization study but discovered that it covers from S. Lake Ave. to Swan St. and, thus, includes Lark St. and the Center Square area with its host of motor vehicle-related issues. We noted the dependence of people in cars on the park for through travel and for parking. We noted that the only road that should be open to cars is the Washington Park Rd. from the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at State St. to the exits at Madison Ave./Willet St. and New Scotland Ave. All other roads should be “dead ends” allowing people in cars to both access the playground, dog run, etc. and use the parking.
- **Albany-Colonie Connector** (Lorenz, John) – Letter with map and routes delivered 1/22 to P. Mahan. No Report.
- **Albany-Shaker Rd. and the Wolf Rd. Gap** (John) – Investigation continues. No report.
- **Grants (Ride, Bike Day)** (John) – Grant application for Twin Cities Albany Bicycle Coalition-Cycle Schenectady ride submitted. Food arranged from a vendor at no cost. We discussed also holding the Ride of Silence (5/19) as we have a good following, the need is there, and we have a new and better proposed route.
- **Patroon Greenway Project** (Ed) – We had a good meeting with the City of Albany Planning Office co-hosted by ABC and the Deputy Director. We have a common understanding about the proposed study. We made the point that the better terminus for the Hudson River end was the proposed Skyway on Broadway/Clinton Ave. We also described our existing on-street route from Tivoli Lake Preserve to the Skyway. The city is proceeding with a “route alternatives” design contract.

New Business –

- **Ride Against Racism** (Ed) – This is an all-abilities, multi-starting-point, community-building bicycle ride intended to unite our community in a demonstration of solidarity that “We Are On A Mission To Eliminate Racism.” Bike rescues invited to participate. We agreed to offer our services (e.g., staff one of the starting points with and “ABC Quick Check”) and to financially support the ride.
- **Insurance Renewal** (David) – Insurance renewed and David approved for reimbursement.
- **Rapp Rd. Campaign Coordinator** (All) – Who? Duties? Tabled.
- **Dott Ave. Bypass** – Proposal to Town of Colonie 1/12 – Tabled. Lorenz will follow up.
- **Keeler Proposal and SAVE Colonie** (John, et al.) – Collaboration with Town of Colonie staff. Did exhaustive study the results of which are that the original plan for a connection from the Keeler property to River Rd. and the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail is not feasible. Will continue working on this project.
- **Monkey Wards Way** – Open. No discussion.
- **Crashes/Road Rage and Related (Ed)** – The discussion with Albany DA about enforcement and prosecution of anti-cyclist incidents was not fruitful. The suggestion was to contact the mayor. APD does not treat “bicycle harassment” as an issue. We were concerned about the recent bottle throwing/sideswiping incident on the Madison Ave bicycle lanes. See - [Bottle Assault 1 14 21 - YouTube](#). This was not merely harassment but a physical attack that could have injured the cyclist or caused loss of control and a crash.
- **LaSalle Annual Donation** – Tabled.

Upcoming – Rides/events/issues? (Go here - <https://albanybicyclecoalition.com/resources/events/>)

- **Meeting Dates** – ABC meets the last [not the 4th] Thr of each month unless there is a conflicting holiday. Upcoming dates are as follows: 2/25, 3/25, 4/29

- **2/9 – Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting** – Tue, 9:00 AM, Capital District Transportation Committee, One Park Place Albany - <http://www.cdtcmo.org/>

Zoomers – David, Mark, Ed, Pam, Rob, John, and Lorenz.

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