

## **Minutes from July 14, 2008 Elm City Cycling General Planning Meeting**

Present: 20 folks, which is pretty darn good in the middle of the summer!

### **Introductions**

#### **Brief Event Recaps and Thank You's:**

- Arts & Ideas Tours (a huge success)
- Cluefest 6 (a biker team of Rob, David, Matt and Bill got the second most points, within a few inches of being tied for first place!)
- June Critical Mass (135 people, accompanied by NHPD – next month will probably not have motorcyclist cop)
- Wednesday night ice cream rides (every week into September, going very well),
- Bike to Work Breakfast July 11 (60 people, update from Mike Piscitelli)
- Note: Not all of the above are sponsored by ECC but many members have participated.

#### **Bike the Rock! New Haven Summer Bicycling Celebration at East Rock July 19:**

- Planning going well, people can still sign up to volunteer for various aspects (contact Brian at [bhornby@newhavenct.net](mailto:bhornby@newhavenct.net))
- Bicycle cops may or may not attend the neighborhood rides into the park (said it depends on how many people show up).

### **Subcommittee Reports**

#### **Incorporation Subcommittee:**

- Thanks esp. to Hunter Smith for working so hard on this; idea is to incorporate but leave ECC pretty much the same kind of organization it has been up to now – loose and open to all cyclists
- Subcommittee will propose a slate of directors, to be voted on within next two weeks, then incorporation papers filed with the state.

#### **Bike Plan Subcommittee:**

- New meeting date/time right after ECC General Meeting, we hope more people will get involved
- Subcommittee is making progress on structure for bike plan implementation, including meeting with Mike Piscitelli right after ECC General Meeting.
- Collaborating with New Haven Safe Streets members on in-street pedestrian signage project, led by ECC (the signs that say drivers must obey state law and stop for pedestrians in crosswalk). Letter will be sent out within next couple of weeks requesting citywide implementation and presenting evidence
- Bike route signage was discussed. Group likes the idea of "bikes take full lane" signs and citywide bike route signage improvements.
- Metro North bikes-on-trains lobbying effort, Richard Stowe to draft thank you note regarding Mayor's letter to Governor on the issue.
- Progress on items affecting LAB accreditation next year, e.g., racks at schools, Safe Routes to School progress, bike routes, coordination issues: The Education Subcommittee will spearhead identifying which schools have bike racks and which don't, which was a request made by NHPS to Mark. All newest schools should have them but the older ones may not.

#### **Traffic Enforcement Subcommittee:**

- Lt. Joe Witkowski (deputy head of Patrol Division) has made available some long-awaited accident data and will continue to do so going forward
- The NHPD just launched a new Traffic Safety hotline (946-6956) or email [trafficsafety@newhavenct.net](mailto:trafficsafety@newhavenct.net) to report traffic violations, which can be done anonymously. PLEASE REPORT what you see!
- NHPD will continue meeting with this subcommittee.

#### **ECC Neighborhood Initiative:**

- Efforts are continuing to get more signatures on the Safe Streets Petition ([www.newhavensafestreeets.org](http://www.newhavensafestreeets.org)). So far 9 out of 12 Community Management Teams have signed the petition, plus 28 elected officials and many community groups (including ECC!) and about 1600 local residents. Various groups, schools, etc., throughout New Haven of all types are being approached about traffic safety issues, contact [newhavensafestreeets@gmail.com](mailto:newhavensafestreeets@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved in outreach.
- Cyclists should continue to attend their local Community Management Team meetings to share concerns and learn about other neighborhood concerns. Should report to the listserv or at the general meeting on anything related to cycling concerns.
- Public hearing on the Whalley Avenue widening project is planned for 7/31 at 6:00pm at the Edgewood School. The current plan will widen the street and increase vehicular speeds. There will also be a public design charrette. Public should speak up right away if they want to see a more pedestrian/bike friendly street.

#### **Education Subcommittee:**

- Next BTW Day breakfast is August 8
- ECC general info brochure is done and b/w copies will be made for July 19 East Rock festival; once incorporated, we can open bank account and deposit \$1,000 grant from New England Grassroots Environment Network and get color copies printed
- Anyone is invited to write an op-ed for the Register on a biking-themed topic; can contact [grace.johnston@gmail.com](mailto:grace.johnston@gmail.com) or [melinda.tuhus@gmail.com](mailto:melinda.tuhus@gmail.com) if you have questions or need help

#### **Other Items:**

- Three Guardian Angels invited ECCers to join them in an unarmed bike safety patrol. Anyone interested can contact [pauldhammer@yahoo.com](mailto:pauldhammer@yahoo.com) for more info.
- The new president of the Connecticut Bicycle Coalition works for the RPA, so is well-positioned to represent cyclists in the world of transportation planning. Word will go out about the next CBC meeting.
- ECC now has a Resources Repository list, where by contacting [dls@davidstreever.com](mailto:dls@davidstreever.com) you can post any items you are aware of that belong to ECC (brochures, banners, cash under the bed, etc.)
- The ECC listserv now has a Special Announcements option, managed by "list moderator" Bruce Crowder. Please send your events to him for posting, but then don't post yourself (i.e., double post) because some people will get very annoyed.
- The Aldermanic public safety committee will meet at 6 p.m. August 6 and take up the issue of bike safety. All are invited to attend (at City Hall). New police chief Jim Lewis will likely be there.

Adjournment 7:05 p.m. Can you believe we did all this in an hour? We rock!