

**Comox Valley Cycling Coalition**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**October 28, 2013**

**Present** - James Taylor, Ed Schum, Angela Dawson, Marg Harris, Terry Dekker, Julia Painchaud, Wilf Dreher

**Financial Report** –Julia Painschaud (Treasurer) presented the financial report, which was approved as written. She noted that there had been little activity during the last month. A deposit, the proceeds from courses run by Ed, was made in the amount of \$540.00. The next large purchase will be for the canopy fittings, which will be used for bicycle racks.

**Membership Report** – Sue Fabrizio - nil

**Technical Committee Report** –

- Wilf reported on the meeting held with McElhanny engineers re renderings of proposed traffic lanes on Fitzgerald Avenue, including bicycle lanes. Discussion focused on using painted lines on this road as lane separation as opposed to having a physical separation between automobile and bicycle traffic, as well as the need for a continuous centre lane (which the traffic counts do not support). Wilf believes we should insist on 1.5 metre bicycle lane so that the parking spaces on the side of the road plus a bicycle lane encompass 14 feet. He recommends that the coalition take a stand on this and insist on minimum standards that accommodate safe cycling as cyclists are safer with no lines at all than if the lanes are less than 1.5 metres wide.
- Terry moved seconded Marg that we support any plan presented as long as it includes 1.5 metre cycling lanes delineated by two lines, thus meeting the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) standards. Motion passed.
- A 5:30 open house meeting sponsored by Courtenay City Council is being held on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and it is very important that as many coalition members as possible be in attendance.
- Traffic Count data has been forwarded by James to Lesley Hatch, the community engineer in Courtenay as well as the chief engineer in Comox

**Cycling Public Advisory Council (CPAC) Oct.23rd meeting** –

- The outcome of the meeting is that some direction for the Cycling Task Force has been decided upon. The Haste Coordinator has been hired. She works 20 hours a week and has accomplished a great deal in 3 weeks.
- Sue Vince, Marg, and James are preparing for the larger CPAC meeting. A public meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 21, 2013 from 7 – 9 pm. at the Evergreen lounge of the Filberg Centre.

- The Coalition will be applying to CPAC Task Force for funding of up to \$1000.00 for the purchase of bicycles for our Cycling Skills Courses. These monies are available for bicycling needs.
- Bicycling Survey – We need to discern the routes that cyclists are utilizing and decide how best to collect this data. We plan to institute a survey of bicycling use and approach Courtenay City with a request that they purchase a traffic counter. This would be a much more efficient means of collecting data than our current traffic count process.
- Another focus for the coalition is assessing areas in the valley that need to be developed to facilitate cycling. Haste will be doing some of this work in researching best cycling and walking routes to school.
- CPAC Committee meeting will be set for the week of November 12 and James will send out choices via drop box.

**Skills for Life** – Angela reported that:

- We are now getting requests from schools to organize cycling skills events.
- Ed has booked a Right to Bike level 2 course at the Comox Recreation Centre and the Medicine Shop pharmacy has requested a cycling workshop for the weekly cycling group that they have established.
- We recently did a cycling skills course at Courtenay Elementary School where 65 kids participated.
- The HASTe program will have an impact on our cycling skills if Angela (the new HASTe coordinator) promotes urban cycling skills when she is addressing the PACs
- We need adult courses to continue to promote and recruit additional adult volunteers for the school programs
- Right to Bike is coming and is completely separate from CanBike. This is very positive but their curriculum is more labour intensive than our current school rodeo course. However, it is more efficient and gets children involved and enthusiastic about cycling.
- Discussion re the feasibility of taking the cycling skills course into the higher grades and planning for this over the winter season.

**Bridge** – Ed reported that Tim O’Brien has been hired to take the project to the point where fundraising can begin. He has met with city staff. A timetable is required which has the project finished by Sept 2015 and a conceptual drawing, a reasonable cost estimate and the public support of the city of Courtenay is now required by early 2014.

**Farm Cycle Tour** - nil

**Bike Lock ups** – The cost for the canopy fittings was higher than expect due to the GST and PST but still a very good price. 36 connectors were purchased at a cost of \$452.32; taxes were \$39.60 resulting in a net cost of \$491.97. Even if we have to purchase new piping the cost is still very low.

**Christmas bicycle lights** (battery operated) - are now available and discussion was held re evening rides at the beginning of December. This would be both a social outing and a promotion of cycling. Further discussion will be held on this. The lights are currently available at both Canadian Tire and Home Depot locations.

A request was received from the Broken Spoke Bicycle Shop, to have coalition members manning the **Snow to Surf Road biking section**. This event is held in late April. Ed has participated in this leg of the event in the past and has the information required to set up this change over station. This is a good opportunity for us as a coalition, but we do need volunteers. A notification will be sent to the membership and we will also appeal for volunteers at the next AGM. James & Marg will contact Mike at Broken Spoke bike shop to advise that we will take this one.

### **New Business**

A **Webinar** will be held on November 6th from 12 to 1:30 pm at the County Offices, which are upstairs in the Courtenay City Hall. This will detail the National Association of City Transportation Officials standards for street design.

**Maps** - We have 6 more copies of maps, which were created to illustrate Comox Valley cycling priorities as of 2007. Any one wishing to have a map can advise James.

Sue Vince & Marg recently attended a **meeting with the Regional District**.

- The district had funding allocated for bicycle racks for the Regional District and were asking for suggestions as to beneficial locations. Marg & Sue gave suggestions for locations as well as informing the district that in order for bicycle racks to be functional they need to accommodate at least 8 bikes. They also suggested that the district assist the Royston Roasting with the cost of a rack, which has already been installed.
- As a result of this, discussion was held re planning for future requests for input and/or funding opportunities. It was suggestion that the coalition could keep a list of ideas and suggestions at the ready for end of year extra funding opportunities. It was also suggested that we have suggestions for creating cycling connections to existing trails on hand. Several additional suggestions were offered.

**Road Sweeping** - James reported that he was in contact with the city of Comox and was informed that it is policy to do road sweeping as it is needed, such as after the recent wind storm. He also spoke to Bob O'Brien the Regional District re sweeping and was informed that any cyclist can contact MCOM if there is an area of road that there is concern about.

**Coalition Special Meeting** – will be held on Wednesday, November 27, 2013 at 7 – 9 pm. in the Evergreen Lounge of the Florence Filberg Centre. This is separate from

the monthly meetings and there will be a video presentation possibly clips from a series of Ted Talks on topics of interest to cyclists

Discussion held re our participation in this year's **Christmas Parade** as well as the possibility of cycling behind the fully decorated concrete truck that, complete with a sound system belting out Christmas music, makes its way through the residential streets of the Comox Valley.

**Next meeting November 25, 2013.**

**Meeting Adjourned.**