

**Bike Walk Connecticut
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 12, 2014 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Bike Walk Connecticut HQ
56 Arbor Street, Suite 310A, Hartford, CT 06105**

Attendees: Mary Ellen Thibodeau, Chris Brown, Kelly Kennedy, Emily Wolfe, Laura Baum, Gary Griffin, Chris Skelly, Kelly Rago; Ray Willis

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Laura Baum.
- 2) Minutes of the January 16, 2014 Board meeting

Kelly Kennedy asked to amend a sentence in the section on Budget.

“Discussion focused on the bottom line, which showed a deficit of \$10,000” should be corrected to read: “Discussion focused on the bottom line, which showed a deficit of \$23,000”.

MaryEllen moved to accept the minutes as amended. Chris Brown seconded. Motion passed.

- 3) Financial Report: In Ken Livingston’s absence, Kelly Kennedy summarized the financial report. A motion was made by Chris Brown to accept the financial report. MaryEllen seconded; motion passed.

- 4) Committee Reports:

Legislative Advocacy: Kelly reported on the Vulnerable Users bill may finally pass this year. The bill establishes new penalties for motorists who fail to exercise reasonable care and cause serious injury or death to pedestrians, bicyclists and wheel chair users on state highways and public roads. BWCT/Kelly have been working with Sen. Beth Bye on getting this passed.

Federal Advocacy/National Summit Takeaways: Laura Baum and MaryEllen Thibodeau reported on their attendance at this event in DC. They met with staff of Connecticut legislators. The Summit was an opportunity to share ideas with leaders of similar non-profit advocacy organizations around the country.

DPH Complete Streets Grant: Kelly reported on progress, including the survey as a basis of progress measurement.

Discover Hartford Bicycle Tour Partnership Proposal: Discussions are continuing with Aidan Charles about a partnership between the Connecticut Cycling Festival/CCAP/Criterium and BWCT’s Discover Hartford Bike Tour’s 10- 25- and 40 mile tours. The Cycling Festival’s racing events and the Discover Hartford Tour will both take place during the Envisionfest weekend, September 2014. The basic outline of the partnership proposal, which includes guarantees minimum revenue to BWCT, is acceptable.

Other Updates:

A Bike to Work chair is still needed.

Marriot Hotel in Hartford has requested a design for a weekend bike get away package.

5) Operations/Business Updates and Discussions

Business Planning Grant – Barry Finkelstein, the consultant who will facilitate the planning retreat, joined the meeting by telephone to describe the process.

Executive Director Goals – the ED goals were included in the packet. Board was asked to review them.

Bike Shop and Club Liaisons: List of bike shops by region was included as part of the Board package and members were asked to sign up to talk to their shop about business memberships.

Chapters: There was a discussion about the benefits to locally-focused grassroots organizations of joining a BWCT chapter structure. Among those are: dues go toward the Summit, where there can be special sessions for our member organizations; groups could use BWCT's 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status. There was discussion about starting grassroots groups vs. trying to recruit existing groups to join the BWCT umbrella. Chapter memberships should not be looked at as a money maker.

LGH Leaders on Board: This is Leadership Greater Hartford's program to pair interested volunteers with non profits. The Board agreed that this should be pursued after the business planning process with Barry Finkelstein is completed.

6) 2014 Budget Proposal – Discussion and Adoption

The Board reviewed the previously distributed and revised budget proposal. There was discussion about using the budget surplus to invest in strengthening and growing the organization. The Board agreed to earmark \$5,000 to sponsor Bike to Work. Reasons discussed were that it is a priority of the organization; there is not sufficient staff time given other priorities and the Board cannot actively engage in leading it.

Chris Brown moved to approve the budget, including the \$5,000 sponsorship of Bike to Work. Gary Griffin seconded. The motion passed.

It was agreed that Kelly Kennedy will investigate contracting with an event planner to take over the responsibilities of Bike to Work.

Next meeting: Wednesday May 14, 2014

Adjourn: 8:45

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Wolfe