

Velo Cape Breton Bicycle Association

Meeting held at Cafe Marie, on February 7th, 2025

Attendees:

Bill Goldston

Nathan Karsgaard

Elaine Swartz

Jarret Gosbee

Kate O'Brien

Andree Crepeau

Leroy Hodder

Regrets:

Kristen MacLeod

Stephanie MacLellan

Mark Floerke

David Kehler

Susan Reeves

Meeting called to order: 12:04 pm

Approval of Agenda – Agenda approved – Elaine Swartz, Nathan Karsgaard, seconded.

Approval of previous minutes – Previous Minutes approved – Nathan Karsgaard, Elaine Swartz seconded

Treasurer's Report – Summary

Active Members – 146 active members and \$405 in membership dues to date.

- Board members expressed interest in recruiting more active members. Nathan will advertise and try to boost numbers via website.

Cabot Trail in 4 days: \$4750 in sign-ups

Sales: 1 Jersey sold

Expenses: \$290 (potluck)

- For more detailed information on expenses please see email from Bill dated February 7th, 2025

Correspondence – Interest in Cabot Trial in 4 days via Andree. General questions returned and answered by Andree.

Connect 2 – Andree has been corresponding with Miriam and Velo is still seeking approval for funding and a financial commitment from CBRM to help install bike racks around Cape Breton. There has been some difficulty finding details and securing funding for Connect2 via AT funds committed by CBRM. The idea being that the CBRM will give a kickback (~1/3 of the price) for installation of said bike racks and provide an incentive for businesses to purchase and install.

Rack Pricing – Andree mentioned that the price of mounts were not added to the pricing list detailed below (I – Kate – don't have the price for the mounts and couldn't add it to the minutes).

Rack Pricing	Cost	Sell
Single U 2 Bikes	246.07	300.00
Double U 4 Bikes	642.26	800.00
Triple U 6 Bikes	899.87	1100.00
Anchors - multi surface	108.36	135.00
Anchors - asphalt	48.54	60.00
Anchors - concrete	25.96	35.00

* Freight not included in cost 5.2 %

* Margin without shipping approx. 20%

* Margin with shipping approx. 16%

Connect 2 & Community Student Research Connection Program – While Nathan and Andree were at the CB Health Fair, they met a CBU student who potentially met all criteria and seems like a good fit for Velo as a summer student. To get a better idea of what will be expected of any potential summer students, Nathan volunteered to do an info sheet for this upcoming job.

Student Proposal – Approval of application for the Canada Student Summer Job program will not occur until April 28th, 2025. This topic has been tabled until further information about the application is available.

Ride schedule – During the winter potluck there was 2 sign-ups received for seasonal ride leaders – Elaine Swartz and Art Spencer. Nathan will continue to canvas people through the newsletter and give them the option of hosting spontaneous or impromptu rides. Velo is hoping the recruitment of ride leaders will hopefully pick up as the upcoming bike season approaches.

However, the following rides were volunteered by board members which include:

- Andrée willing to lead 3 Sunday morning rides of 10, 15, 20k for people who have taken training and want to practice.
- Bill is interested in Tuesday morning rides.
- Elaine is interested in Thursday morning rides
- Leroy wants to do an Inverness to Port Hood ride.
- Nathan has a friend who is interested in having rides for kids.

*The fall poker ride still needs a volunteer.

Ride Captain: As mentioned, Elaine volunteered to be the Ride Captain this year; Nathan and Bill also volunteered to help her with the IT.

A ride leaders meeting in March is suggested to help develop a group and get everyone on the same page. This should be discussed more in depth at the next board meeting to clue up a date and time. It was suggested an online meeting be conducted and a ride schedule be created.

All one-off rides are welcomed and encouraged - for persons interested in leading one-off rides, 2 weeks notice will be required for planning and sanctioning the ride.

Community driven rides: The following was brought up about organizing rides with the following community members:

- Laura Goode from CBRM Rec suggests we hold our Bike Rodeo at the end of June and then she can set up the students to be there to help. Will need a follow up as the date approaches.
- Stewart McNeil a teacher at BEC wants to organize a ride to school day during June, wants our involvement date and time TBA.

Short Training Sessions - Elaine wants to offer short training sessions, she and Leroy will sort out several training options to be posted on the website including custom training for groups. They include:

- HOPON
- Ride CAN
- Ride Right

Cabot Trail in 4 days – sign ups are ongoing. Nathan created posters for this event and board members will distribute them over the island to get more word out.

Mountain biking – No big updates on this topic as it is the off season. CBRM Rec has identified various sites for potential mountain biking trails. Summit Park was suggested as a potential site for mountain biking – however it being an off-leash dog park has caused safety concerns.

Ordering more jerseys – A review of current stock by Andree indicated that smaller sizes would need to be restocked as the jerseys run big. Andree will investigate ordering more via Rejean Aucoin.

AT Report: Blue Route meeting upcoming for potentially adding certain routes in the CBRM to the Blue Route via Cycling NS.

Like mentioned in Connect2 - A letter was sent to the mayor looking for funding on various matters including bike racks and the establishment and maintenance of trails across the CBRM. Council does need to action and approve the AT funding and there is no movement on this yet.

Rail Line Study – The report for the rail line study still has not been released and board members are awaiting this report to potentially discuss the creation of bike trails in these areas. *Still no update as of February 7th, Andree will contact Tom Ayres for follow up.*

New Business:

Shed Centre 200 – The storage container is not in the best condition and needs some maintenance. Sue Reeves is the lead on fixing the container.

Choose next meeting date – Friday, March 7, 2025 at Cafe Marie.

Adjournment – 13:13