

Velo Cape Breton Bicycle Association

Meeting held at 7x7, on 03-01-2025 (Café Marie was closed on day of scheduled meeting)

Attendees:

Bill Goldston
Nathan Karsgaard
Elaine Swartz
Jarret Gosbee
Kate O'Brien

Regrets:

Andree Crepeau
Kristen MacLeod
Stephanie MacLellan
Mark Floerke
David Kehler
Leroy Hodder
Susan Reeves

Meeting called to order: 12:11 pm

Approval of Agenda – Agenda approved – Elaine Swartz seconded.

Approval of previous minutes – Previous Minutes approved – Nathan Karsgaard seconded

Treasurer's Report – No significant change in financials since last meeting

Active Members – 146 active members

Correspondence – Velo Cape Breton received a \$25 refund cheque from Broken link via Canada Post. It is unclear why a refund was issued - a suspected overcharge is what the committee figures the cheque was for.

Connect 2 – Next step is to install the racks. Concrete company has yet to follow through on the work. We have the racks, we have permission of the landlords for Dominion and Sydney Mines libraries. Concrete contract is with Hodder Landscaping but they have not been following through. Andree will contact CBRM to see if they can recommend concrete workers to complete this work, as both libraries are owned by the CBRM. Jarret will reach out to councillors in both areas to see if they have contractors in mind who could complete the work. Bill will send out the cost to purchase the racks, and the proposed sale price to all board members for review.

Update: Jarret was in contact with contractors reference installing concrete for the bike racks. Installation will not be a problem, however given that it is the winter season, the contractors suggested touching base again in the spring when it is more feasible to install the concrete and racks.

Additionally, Bill proposed changes to the pricing of the racks as follows- Jarrett Gosbee seconded

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%

All members were in favour of motion to change the price of the bike racks. It was noted that none of the pricing above included the cost of purchasing and pouring of concrete. Jarrett also mentioned that CBRM could possibly provide of 1/3 kickback cost for the bike racks. This will have to be further discussed as more information becomes available.

Connect 2 & Community Student Research Connection Program - Andree is meeting weekly with our research student. She has reached out to get permission to send out the questionnaire, which is taking longer than anticipated. The grant we have with this student is for 200 hours. Even if we do not complete all tasks, this project will still help us towards our goal of connecting with local businesses and employers about installing bike racks. *No Update as Andree was not present.*

Student Proposal – Bill has completed an application for a Canada Summer Jobs grant to hire a summer worker. The grant would pay a summer worker \$15.20/hour, 35 hours/week for 16 weeks if we are successful. All board members voted in favour of topping up this hourly rate to \$20/hour, which would cost Velo \$2800 for the duration of the grant. The summer worker would assist with the installation of bike racks, Cabot Trail in 4 Days, leading rides, bicycle counts, and helping with rodeos and events for kids. The earliest start date would be the end of April, 2025.

Update: 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.

Winter Potluck – Proposed date is ~~January 25th, 2025~~ at the Italian Community Hall in Dominion. *Update:* The hall was already booked for January 25th, so we booked the hall for January 26th from 2pm to 8pm.

Update: Leroy has volunteered to correspond with Paula Jacobs and set up the snow shoes. Volunteers are still needed for set up and clean up, as well as volunteers for hot chocolate and croc pot meals.

Ride schedule – Elaine put forward an idea to have zoned/regional bike leaders to lead rides in their area of residence. The idea is to possibly encourage cyclists from that area to eventually lead rides. It was additionally suggested that when/if we get a summer student, they could create a ride schedule and fill the vacant role of ride captain; while also leading 1-2 rides a week depending on where the need is required.

It was also suggested that there currently isn't a big enough contingent of volunteer ride leaders. As a solution, during the winter potluck, Nathan volunteered to bring a ride leader sign-up sheet to gauge interest. Additionally, Nathan will put a note on the website asking for ride leader volunteers and to contact Velo Cape Breton for more information. The hope is to start the ball rolling and get enough names for volunteer ride leaders as the upcoming riding season is fast approaching.

Mountain biking – Several people met on December 8th to discuss mountain biking in CB, including trail building and hosting events. Meeting will be done under the umbrella of Cycling Nova Scotia because they have the insurance mechanism to handle it. *No update on this topic, board members involved in this project were not present.*

Ordering more jerseys – We want to order more jerseys, which can be purchased for the same price provided we make the purchase within a year of our original order, and provided we order more than 6 jerseys. Board was in favour, but no decision on numbers or sizing was made during this meeting. *No update on this topic*

Website – Given the tax break by the federal government Bill suggested stopping the tax on all new memberships. It was indicated that it was easy to implement by simply turning off the tax with a button on the website.

The board also was in favour of posting the board meeting minutes on the website. Nathan is working on consolidating and re-filing financial reports and annual meeting minutes into a more user friendly user interface.

New Business:

Cycling Safety – Elaine brought up some great points about the need for cycling safety and training for ride leaders. Elaine mentioned that between her and Leroy, they could both deliver the course in one day (9 hours) to better serve the community and try to garner more interest. Elaine did mention if there is enough interest that the courses could be delivered over a couple weekends during the month of May, or perhaps during the weekday if enough people sign up.

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.

Choose next meeting date – Friday, February 7, 2025 at Cafe Marie. Alternate location: 7x7

Adjournment – 13:05