

MINUTES
Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee Meeting
April 19, 2023

**Due to ongoing construction activity at South Bethany Town Hall, this meeting was held remotely via GoToMeeting.*

Attendees: Bob Biciocchi (Chair), Bob Shields, Edie Dondero, Dennis Roberts, Ritt Dalaire, Glen Tom

Absent: Rob Herb, Bill Tinklepaugh

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Biciocchi at 1:04 PM.

The minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

There were no members of the public present and, thus, no public comment period.

Discussion of Current Events

Chair Biciocchi provided an update that the new 15 mph signage had been installed and being enforced along both directions of the roads connecting Kent Ave entrance at Blackgum through to the exit of Evergreen Rd onto Coastal. Also 15 mph was the in force the entire length of Canal Rd. Ms Dondero noted that the solar speed sign on Blackgum was not working properly.

Mr Biciocchi added that new, more visible, graphic/ text signage on Kent Avenue detailing the Black Gum seasonal turning restrictions were approved by Chief Lovins and the Town Manager for installment this season beginning May 26 before Memorial weekend and continuing through Labor Day end of season. The signage would continue to provide the same dates and times for restricted entry into BlackGum from either direction off of Kent road.

Ms Dondero commented that the date of Summer Picnic sponsored by the SBPOA was on June 10th and that the Bike and Pedestrian Committee was invited to share the Community Relations tent and table for the purpose of promoting the Bike Rodeo and general Bike and Pedestrian safety. She further suggested that we create a promotional flyer for the Rodeo to be given out at the Picnic event.

The Bike Rodeo planning was discussed and Chair Biciocchi gave an update having met with the Town financial administrator, Chief Lovings, and Jon of Facilities, in an effort to locate and inventory last year's promotional items, being: bike lights (in the Police shed), placard information cards, safety message magnets, bike water bottles. Ms Dondero noted she had the yard signage for the rodeo and that with the dates updated, these signs could be reused again. Mr Dalaire, Mr,Shields, Mr Roberts, and Mr Tom contributed ideas about promotional items to be given away at the Rodeo being; bike lights, bike mountable mirrors with reflectors, and

replacement bike light batteries. It was the consensus that the Rodeo be scheduled for July 15th from 9am-12pm.

Mr. Biciocchi mentioned he would begin talking with commercial sponsors IE. Bike shops to enlist sponsors of the Rodeo event. Also, in his discussions Chief Lovins volunteered to provide the Police tent and tables, set up and staff the Bike Safety course, and also invite the Fire Dept use of trucks and provide the new Police cruisers for display at the Rodeo event. Chief Lovins would also invite the Ocean View Bike Patrol officers to attend the Rodeo.

Mr Biciocchi and Ms Dondero summarized that new promo flyers for the Rodeo needed to be made to hand out at the Picnic. Also to review any material being reused and make correcting updates to the content. Ms Dondero added that the Rodeo could be promoted by the Community Relations Committee newsletter and also the SBPOA newsletter. She suggested that the Town website could also be used for Rodeo promotion.

Mr Biciocchi and Ms Dondero also reported they had a meeting with the Bike and Pedestrian Committee of Bethany Beach. They were able to address the Bethany Committee and discuss commonality of purpose for Public Safety issues and interest to share messaging and policy so that bikers and walkers can follow a consistent set of safety rules and expectations for their routes that often travel between towns. There is also an interest expressed by both Committees to form a coalition of Towns in order to pursue funding and support of Public Safety ideas at the State level.

In a separate subject, Mr Shields inquired about any survey data that might be used to measure the effectiveness of the recent pedestrian crossings signs. Mr Biciocchi said that he would look into this as part of the new north bound traffic signage installed at the South Bethany southern entrance from Coast Hwy as part of an overall Safety study. Ms. Dondero concurred and would assist on the issue inquiry during the next Council session.

With no further comment at 2pm the meeting was adjourned.