

2024 NHBC May Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Zuhair Abdulla, Matt Gorham, AG Barry, Thomas McGrade, Mitch Dvoracek, John Varkonda, Keith Rebhorn, Josh Glaab, Dan Manuzzi, Marina Murashev (guest)

Beginner ride review

- 5 attendees, 3 stayed after for pizza
- Everyone who stayed seemed to really enjoy it, was very interested in doing it again
- Potential to increase mileage up from 10
 - Actual route was not particularly fun, need to come up with a new 12-14 mile route

New Haven Ride Coordination (Marina)

- Trying to build online calendar for all rides in New Haven
- Add one group at a time until every group in town is on the platform
- Way to provide info to people who want to ride without needing facebook account, having someone to ask in person, navigating many different methods of communication
- Website looks fantastic
 - Includes all necessary information about ride
- Idea would be to have an embeddable calendar that we could put on our website
- Multi-layer permissions
 - Hope would be to allow authorized members to post rides, club organizers would act as admins
 - Member rides would be badged differently than official club rides
- Link to waiver would be included with every ride post
- Would include RSVP function, although expectation would be that it doesn't really get used for recurring club rides - would be more for special event rides
- No other functional alternative to this seems to exist at the moment
- Option to subscribe for alerts and such, but not mandatory to use website
 - Trying to avoid having to create an account to even use the website
- Going to look into sending text message ride alerts for cancellations and updates
- Would like to have area search function in the future
- Long-term vision would like to include general info on bike community in the area including bike rentals, bike shops, clubs,
 - This would include handling legal waivers, but not yet
- Hoping to have it off the ground this riding season, but maybe next. No promises on timeframe
- Vote on whether we want to continue supporting this and work through beta testing with Marina
 - **All in favor**

Date for Board Retreat

- Trying to find a day for board retreat in May, no final decisions were made in the Slack thread

- We don't yet seem to be on the same page about what the mission is, but everyone is really busy until the fall
- Decided that no retreat is necessary for now, we can move it to the fall
 - AG happy to facilitate
- Agreed that any re-branding should be in the offseason
- The initial concern was how we're going to market to new riders but because this didn't get settled in time for the season we're not going to get it fixed right now

Mild Ride

- Does the ride need to be shorter?
- Sun is already down when they get back and everyone has left P&M
- We think ride is ok during the summer when days are long and people hang out at P&M after, but could use adjustment for the spring and fall when there's less light and people are less social
- Mild ride has fewer recurring riders than other groups so changing routes might be harder than with other groups
- Tabling this until next month when Paul is here to provide input

Assign someone or more to draft FAQs about club

- One page FAQ about what the club is, what the rides are like, what you need to come on a ride, etc
 - Something that's a more accessible version of the ride safety document that someone who hasn't joined yet can read to decide if they want to join
- Matt will start drafting this

Zuhair has contacted Caroline Tanbee about Bike Month

Thursday ride structure

- Last Thursday's ride split at Augie's suggestion
- Agreed that we can't have people showing up to club rides and then breaking off into their own groups and doing different routes
 - People who are planning separate rides need to meet up separately
- We need a speed split between the groups, speed expectations need to be communicated clearly
- We need to figure out what people actually want
- The Wall seems to be a natural split between the two groups, split needs to be communicated at the beginning so that the two groups can head out separately
- We're thinking that this should be an A/B split
 - Could be more than this if more people from 1.5 and mild show up
 - We want to encourage this
 - Thomas happy to lead this group if they will show up
- Need to keep communicating at the beginning of the ride that this is not a race and race tactics don't belong here

Ride administration/safety

- We've noticed that people are not always being helped out with mechanicals and are dropping/turning back without anyone knowing about it. Mechanicals need to be communicated better, people need to stop to help with mechanicals
 - People should call out what they need on rides so that the group knows what's going on and can stop to help if necessary
- Expectation that people should stop and help each other out needs to be set at the beginning of rides and in club literature
- People also need to be responsible for their own bikes, have their own equipment to fix mechanicals, but it should also be expected that someone or more stops to help them out

Ride leader training

- We need to decide what it actually means to be a ride leader
 - This is not clearly defined at this point, and may vary by group and with how each individual ride is going
- Decided that we need to have a committee on what ride leader expectations are and this committee needs to include non-board members so that we can all be on the same page
 - Josh to contact potential committee members from club
- List of people who could be future ride leaders
 - All of us to contact potential future ride leaders after guidelines are established
- This could be one day to talk with the first group to figure out what our expectations of ride leaders are, second day to train ride leaders

East Rock Century

- Josh got the \$1000 check from the city
- Need new lead board member to organize ERC
- Most work has been done already by Andrew, some signatures still outstanding on permitting
- **Keith and Thomas are going to co-lead this**
- **Zuhair is going to take the lead on city permitting**
- We need to order stickers ASAP
 - Circle design seems to be the favorite, could maybe use a teeny bit more work with a halo around the letters so that it's not muddled with the shape behind
- AG is also poking some people for permitting
- Any comms with ERC stuff need to mention the New Haven Green Fund, website event listing already taken care of
- Flyer needs to be updated
- Follow-up email to New Haven Green Fund will be necessary after the event
- We should buy snacks for event

Cross Race Update

- Will be called Hidden Valley CX presented by NHBC and True Cyclery
- Zuhair working with Josh Coine on design

- We're going to pay Josh at his regular rate for 3-5 hours
- Vote to authorize up to 5 hours of work total, only half to be paid by NHBC
 - **All in favor**
- Zuhair calling sponsors to ask for prizes for non-pro races
 - Pro races will have cash plus merch
- Should buy banner with sponsors to hang behind podium
- Entire event should break even or make slight profit

Budget

- Currently at \$6900
- Memberships have picked up a bit since last year

HOMEWORK

- Everyone: come up with better 12-14 mile routes, think about what you want the club's mission and branding to be
- Does everyone have access to the gmail account?
- Matt: draft FAQs about club for new riders
- Josh's homework: get together that group of people to figure out when to figure out ride leader stuff
- Matt: check Costco for enormous things of ranch (we're serious about this)
 - It's ideal if they're in the shape of a traditional ranch dressing bottle. Large buckets may be acceptable but are not preferred
- Keith and Thomas: order stickers, plan ERC things, assign tasks
- AG: poke someone at the City about ERC permitting