

E.I. Bike & Ped. Committee

Minutes – 1/17/2018

Call to Order:

Present: Alesia Sanderson, Anne Schrott, Ken Ambrose, Wanda Collins, Ken Stone, Cris Lauback, Guest Joe Buck from Pedego Electric Bikes

Absent: Branden Burt, Deborah Styron

Approval of Minutes: 11/15/2017 minutes approved

Business:

Pedego Electric Bikes Presentation: Joe Buck from Pedego Electric Bikes presented the merits of the company's product and we discussed its' potential use in Emerald Isle. The company will be opening a "brick & mortar" store in New Bern in the next month or so and is considering further expansion into Emerald Isle in the future for sales and rentals. Joe wanted to ensure that our concerns as a committee and town were known up front to ensure a good working partnership and welcome to the community, which all members agreed was important. Members spent over an hour asking questions and discussing the bike, its' specifications and capabilities, rentals, sales, etc. and most importantly, whether or not we would support its' use on the Emerald Path. Currently there is a Town ordinance that no motorized vehicles are allowed on the Emerald Path, as it is a multi-use Path that is primarily used by walkers, joggers, and slower moving recreational bicycles. There are numerous driveways, store entrances, and intersections with stop signs. Faster moving bikes are usually on the road where they abide with traffic rules. The motorized electric bikes cost around \$3000-\$4000 or more depending on accessories, weigh about 65 pounds, can be pedaled or power assisted or strictly powered by throttle and are capable of moving at 20 mph. They could be governed down to a slower top speed for power assist on rentals. Members were concerned about the speed, rentals to inexperienced motorized bike riders, reactions from golf cart riders who feel they should be able to use the Path, as well as Path walkers and slower moving individuals using the multi-use Path. We also received demonstration rides after our meeting. After discussion, members supported electric bike use on the roadway as it could be great for clean transportation as well as exercise for individuals who wouldn't ordinarily be out on a bicycle, but we unanimously agreed that we could not recommend their use on the Emerald Path and would recommend maintaining the current no motorized vehicles ordinance for the multi-use Emerald Path. We wanted to ensure fairness in our decision and advised Joe of this and welcomed his potential business to the community. For any future questions, ***Joe's phone # is (252) 637-1131.***

Sidewalk on Old Ferry Road: The contractor for this section of sidewalk completed the task in good time and it is now walkable. We also added another small piece near the CVS and the cost

to B&P funds per Laura Rotchford was \$7310 with the Town picking up the remainder. A good joint venture.

Bike the Banks: Because of the amount of time spent discussing electric bikes, we only briefly discussed the May Bike the Banks initiative and its' progress. Mike has sent out and delivered save the date cards to a variety of Bike shops and individuals. Alesia has set up the website and we have 6 registered already (typically registration doesn't pick up until March/April). The most crucial needs for progress at this point are getting sponsors (we previously agreed that we need 8 or more and we have one previous sponsor that has still not paid for 2017), getting volunteers to help with the event (Mike will write up and disseminate to members a sheet noting positions needed and times. Members will try to solicit contacts from friends an organizations), Mike is working on the route map and directions, Wanda will discuss, update, and coordinate with Mike on the same day Bike the Blooms Garden Club initiative, and Mike will look into specific SAG support personnel (members agreed that we would use up to \$200 to pay these individuals for their time if we can't get volunteers). Lots to do, but we're moving forward at a good pace.

Path Maintenance: There are a few areas on the Path that will need attention and Alesia is aware and will take care of it. If members note any potential problems along the Path please let her know.

B&P Funds: Currently, after taking out funds for the Old Ferry Road sidewalk extension, our donated funds balance is \$31,550.53. The next possible sources of income to the fund will probably only come from the Marathon and Bike the Banks event (unless we get some more donations from the community; Ken filled up the El Woods info box again but nothing at all lately in donations).

Adjournment and Next Meeting: After the electric bike demo, meeting adjourned at 11:10. The *next regular meeting is Feb. 21/2018.*