

MINUTES BANNER ELK BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE 2/02/2012

Chairman Ted Silver called the meeting to order. Present were, Doug Owen, Town Council members Charlie B. Voncanon and Robert Tufts, Penny Voncanon and Town Manager Rick Owen:

The Chairman in his report discussed:

1. The Chairman, Ted Silver, will be attending the League of American Bicyclist's National Summit meeting in Washington DC, March 19-23, 2012. During the Summit, there will be meetings and opportunities to meet with representatives in Congress to advocate and discuss transportation issues.

2. The 7 county, High Country Regional Bike committee (Avery, Allegheny, Watagua, Wilkes, Yancey, Ashe, and Mitchell) had its first organizational meeting. In attendance for Avery County were Bret Gardella, Doug Owen and Ted Silver. This project is funded by NCDOT and implemented by the Council of Governments in Boone.

It is a 2 year project to identify regional bike routes to improve transportation connectivity between places in the 7 counties. Meetings are scheduled monthly. As more information becomes available it will be reported to the Committee and Town Council.

3. The Chairman opened a discussion regarding the turn lane issue for the new school at Orchard and 184.

NCDOT is now considering a traffic circle to deal with the flow of traffic at that spot. The Town manager explained that there had been a meeting between NCDOT, Avery County and a representative of the school system.

The Town Manager explained that he has followed up on this meeting and received assurances that the Town will be included in future discussions.

The committee discussed the expansion of the greenway from Town to the school and the impact such a decision for a traffic circle will have on those plans.

(UPDATE- NCDOT HAS PAINTED OUTLINES OF THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE AND FLOW ON 184.)

4. The planners from CES, who did the grant work on designing greenway extension options, should be presenting the final conclusions in the near future.

Member Doug Owen brought up for discussion the following issues for both the Committee :

1. He has finished his time as Chairman of Bicycle Advisory Committee at Lees-McRae and that a gentleman named Al Budris will be new chairman for 2 years. He is currently the President of American Sidi, which is one of the largest, best known, international manufacturers of shoes and other items for sports from cycling to motorcycles. The company is also a sponsor of the LMC cycling team.

2. Mentioned that there may be a cycling event Labor Day and it may be in connection with LMC.

3. Possibility of holding some event in conjunction with Woolly Worm as the Blood, Sweat and Gears ride will not be bringing its riders thru Banner Elk, and it would be nice to add an attraction to Woolly Worm. Possibly including some short events so a whole family could participate.

4. Reminder that Lora Elder will be doing a 100 mile ride in August throughout Avery County.

There was mention and brief discussion of improvements to the Pine Needle Hill trail, and repairs to one of the small bridges on the Greenway going from Hickory Nut Gap.

The Committee wants to thank it's members, Town Manager and Town Council for their presence and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Silver, Chairman