

# *JSTS General Membership Meeting Minutes*

**Date: October 12, 2015**

**Location- Monmouth Worship Center**

Executive Board in Attendance

Bob Spony- President

David Lee- Vice President

Abe Chasnoff- Treasurer

Michael Cronan- Secretary

There were 15 JSTS club members in attendance.

President Bob Spony called the meeting to order at 7pm.

The BOD introduced themselves and in turn the membership introduced themselves.

The Secretary read the June 2015-Aug 2015 Treasurer's report into the minutes. There were some questions regarding the reasons for the current positive funds balance. Reasons offered were that with the advent of email, mailing costs are down significantly and the balance keeps rolling over from year to year. Year over year expenses and revenue are about the same, resulting in the balance remaining consistent.

A motion was made by Paul Pierro to accept the report and seconded by Al McCormick. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer, Abe Chasnoff, then presented the current Treasurer's report.

The annual budget is available for review by any club member by contacting the Treasurer.

We started the month with \$8,707.80. The Harvest Ride expenses will be reflected in next month's report. The treasurer read through the various income and expenses with explanations and clarifications as needed. There was a motion by Pete Benton to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Ed Marx and unanimously passed.

## **Membership Report- Joe Hewes**

The membership for 2015 is closed and the final report shows

53 families

277 Individuals

2 bike shops

Total 330

This is lower than last year by about 19 memberships, but still mid-range for historical membership reports.

So far for 2016 we have 14 individuals and 1 family. There are 14 renewals and 1 new member.

The current Bike shops are Bike Blade & Ball and the Bicycle Hub.

We have had meetings at Brielle Cycle, the Peddler and Bike, Blade and Ball. Questions arose on how to invoice the bike shops(?)

Last spring Joe Hewes sent a form letter with the registration form to our bike shops and only received one or two responses in return. We do have a position for a bike shop coordinator and we need to make sure we are maximizing our efforts with these shops and our club via the coordinator. Bike shops are charged \$30 and they get the right to have two riders per shop attend our club rides, plus a web presence. In the past the physical newsletter showed that they were sponsors of JSTS; online, this is not currently shown.

Andy Abere asked about the churn rate for club membership. There is no apparent reason for the turnover, but it seems to remain consistent year to year at around 1/3 of total members. Although we talked about a survey to try and find out the underlying reasons we did not actually get around to sending it out this year. Alan Zweibel commented that the churn rate is about the same at his other club.

Don Levy commented that a club they have communicated with (the Thunder Bay Canada club) had WOMEN-only rides for their members. The Thunder Bay club has about 300 members and membership is split 50/50 male/female. JSTS has an approximate membership ratio of 70% men to 30% women.

Debbie Asbjorn mentioned that the NJ Bike Walk Coalition will hold a seminar in 2016 that may be interesting to attend as topics often include how to recruit and retain club membership.

### **Clothing**

Art Rofrano is the club clothing coordinator for the current Phase II clothing order. All orders must be submitted by October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Art currently has 10 orders with checks, 6 bandanna orders, and 8 non-bandanna orders. He is expecting 2 more orders and will need at least 10 as a minimum order quantity for the bandanna/skully. Jerseys and vests also carry a MOQ of 10 per Don Levy. Not sure about a MOQ for the shorts. An extension of the order deadline was brought up but a date was not set for the extension at the meeting.

Bob Spony mentioned he would like to add JSTS socks to the order as the socks will be for 2015 volunteer recognition. Bob will guess about sizes and quantities per the number of male and female recipients. He will order about 50 pair; they run about \$10 apiece.

Charlie Kirlew asked about the budgeted amount for recognition awards and Abe C. indicated \$600 was budgeted for this purpose. Art will keep in touch with Barbara Bennett on orders and deadlines. Bob S. will also keep in touch with Barbara on the socks order. Don L. brought up the fact we don't have a design for the skully on file at this point with Champion (clothing vendor). Charlie K. will take photos of the one he has and then coordinate with Champion on a design for this year's skully.

### **Holiday Party**

Sue Scarola sent an email to Bob S. stating that she and Caren Less will be hitting up the bike shops for raffle items. She will put out an email at the end of October or the beginning of November with more specifics about the party costs, what it will consist of etc.

Don Levy commented – Why are we spending money purchasing raffle items when we could be soliciting donations from our sponsoring bike shops? Answer: we have had to purchase these items the last few years.

We only have 2 bike shops as official members/sponsors but the web shows 9 – we need to clean up the web page.

### **Harvest Ride**

Alan Z. coordinated the Harvest Ride festivities and did a great job. We had a good turnout and the weather was perfect. About 30-35 members attended. Alan had wanted to reach out to the ride leaders to get a count prior to the rides to more accurately purchase food but was unable to connect. We had the proper amount of food and beverage because he estimated correctly. The muffins were very popular at this year's ride. Since doughnuts are getting expensive, Alan indicated he may purchase more muffins next year (muffins are served in halves). Having the gathering at Manasquan went well and there were no issues with the park management. Bob Spony thanked Alan and his wife, and called for a big hand for Alan.

### **Club Elections**

Don Levy is chairing the election committee along with Bill Weisler, Abe Chasnoff and Fred Sweet. The elections are next month (November) and so far there has been good feedback/input. For each position we have at least 1 candidate. An email went out about the upcoming elections and Don will send out a second email reminder prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>. One additional notice will be sent to inform the membership about the candidates, as well as giving information about how and where to send absentee ballots. The elections will be held at the monthly meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. A candidate must submit their intention to run no later than 11:59pm on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

### **Old Business**

The motion that was made at the September meeting by Treasurer Abe Chasnoff (see Exhibit A) was re-read. In short, the proposed by-law change was to move unused line-item funds from a past event to a line item for an upcoming future event to cover any potential shortfalls or overspends. The by-law change had been brought up to at the September meeting, recorded into the minutes and posted on the club website for perusal, thereby meeting the requirement to be able to be voted on at the October meeting.

After much discussion and debate back and forth, and clarification on the actual wording of the proposed by-law change, as well as reading of the current bylaws pertaining to how the BOD can spend or allocate for overages, the proposal was put to a vote. Initially it was believed a simple majority would carry the vote with a raising of the members hands. The vote was taken by an open ballot and passed with 10 voting Yes, 6 voting against and 3 abstentions.

After further reading of the By-Laws, it was discovered that the initial voting process was done improperly for a by-law change. For the change to be carried, the proper procedure is for a 2/3 majority vote of a secret ballot.

Members were handed a blank piece of paper and instructed to Vote YES/NO/ABSTAIN for the passage of the proposed by-law change. The Secretary collected the ballots and with the assistance of the Vice President they were counted. There were 19 members present and the motion needed 13 yes votes to pass.

The Votes were

10 - YES

8 - NO

1 Abstention.

Since the required 2/3 majority was not reached the motion FAILED and did not pass.

## **New Business**

Ed Marx sent out an email to the board on the topic of waivers that have gone unsigned by members. The legal requirement is that each member have a signed waiver, but it was discovered that when signing up as a family, only the person signing up had a "signed" waiver and the rest of the adult family members were not (in fact) considered signed. This is because, while we consider it a loophole in the Active website sign-up process, **it is Active.Com's way of enforcing the individual intentional execution of adult waivers.** In his email Ed recommended that **a count of members with unsigned waivers should be given by the membership coordinator along with member head counts** (individual, family, etc.) at every meeting.

As of the meeting it appeared that 40+ people technically did not sign the club waiver for 2015. Again, to clarify, this only applies to team/ family registrations, not individual members. **A parent can sign for a minor but adults in the same household must sign their own waiver (can be done electronically).** The Active admin can send a reminder for unsigned waiver members. This reminder provides a link to sign the waiver for these non-signed members. For 2015 there were 45 unsigned waivers. Ed will check to see if the reminder button is available for 2015 in order to get those 45 member signed for the remainder of the year, however it was noted 2015 registration is closed and this may not be available. Joe will identify those families impacted if Ed can't send the 2015 reminder and reach out via email to get properly signed waivers for the remainder of the 2015 season.

Andy Abernethy thought it would be a nice change to add some flavor to our ride schedule by checking out festivals across NJ that our club could attend and participate in. This was met with substantial interest by those in attendance.

Paul P. asked about non-cycling businesses taking out sponsorships, and if there had ever been a discussion about this(?) Bob S indicated that there had never been an objection per se.

Charlie K. said that the by-laws specify the type of memberships- Lifetime, Family, Individual, Bike Shop and Honorary. Any company can sponsor and put forth money but the individuals would have to sign up individually.

At the September meeting it was suggested that each member be required to ride with some sort of ID. Charlie K. pointed out that carrying ID on club rides is already in the by-laws.

VP David Lee will be looking into the pizza place in Marlboro as the location of our next meeting. The pizza place is next to the bagel store used as a rest stop during club rides right off of Rt. 79. The back room can accommodate 35 people for our election meeting.

With no other business before the membership Joe H. made a motion to adjourn, and was seconded by Cynthia Locastro.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.

Submitted by JSTS Secretary

***Michael Cronan***

**Proposed Amendment to Article X Section 2 of the By-Laws:**

**After the first sentence, insert the following:**

**After an event has occurred, for which funds have been allocated in the budget, the President, with the concurrence of the Board, may transfer any unspent funds in that line item to any other remaining line item.**

**RATIONALE:**

**There have been a number of events held this year where the funds allocated have been more than the amounts expended. There have also been some line items where expenses have exceeded the budgeted amounts. This amendment would permit the Board to reallocate excess funds, without exceeding the overall spending limits set in the budget.**