

Jersey Shore Touring Society (the “Club”)

Meeting Minutes – March 11 (Ride Planning) Meeting

- Pursuant to notice duly provided, the ride planning meeting of the Club was convened via Zoom on March 11, 2024.
- Pat Perrella, President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and there were 22 members of the Club present, including Pat, Ward Kradjel, Vice President, Michael Greaney, Secretary, John Ech, Treasurer. (Other members joined throughout the call and there were 30 members on the call just prior to the end of the meeting.)
- Ward made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 minutes, which had been posted previously. Charles Kirlew noted that those minutes noted that this meeting would be an in-person meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that the change from an in-person meeting to a Zoom meeting would be noted in the minutes for this meeting (done here), and the motion was seconded and the minutes were approved on a voice vote with no objections or abstentions.
- Michael Greaney noted that no correspondence of significance was received.
- John Ech reviewed the financial information for January and February, contained in the “2024 Financials” Google sheet.
 - Paul Sakson inquired as to whether the Club had hit its membership target for January and February. Pat noted that the Club did not have monthly targets for membership, and that the number of memberships taking advantage of the early renewal period exceeded the budgeted number.
 - John discussed the budgeted and actual income and expenses for January and February, and noted that all expenses budgeted for January and February were paid.
 - John reviewed the bank account reconciliation for February.
- Barb Bennett reported on the Ride Planning for 2024. She noted that:
 - Champagne Ride is planned for April 21;
 - The Longest Day Rides will be planned for the third week in June;
 - The date of the Summer Picnic is to be determined;
 - The Half Century and Metric Century rides are planned for September 1, and are currently planned to start from BCC, but that any suggestions for other locations would be considered;
 - The Harvest Ride is planned for October 6, from MJT.

- o Ice Cream Rides would be continued.
- o With respect to the Seafood Festival Ride, the Saturday Century Ride, and the Al’s Covered bridge rides, **ride leaders are needed for these to be scheduled. Those interested should contact Barb.**
 - There may be awards for completing Al’s Covered Bridge Ride, to be determined by the Board.
- o There will again be an opportunity for Club members to participate in a European trip run by Hotel Dory, in May. If there is interest, a presentation could be made to Club members to describe in more detail the trip and the support provided by Hotel Dory.
- o B3 Bicycles, a Club sponsor, is sponsoring the JSTS Summer Tour to the Shenandoah Valley June 28 - 30, and 7 people are already registered.
- o The Remote Hill Ride Series, which Ward led last year and was well-received, will be continued. Barb reviewed the nature of the rides, including the gradients to be expected and locations (many in Somerset/Hunterdon counties),
 - There may be awards for completing 75% of the hill rides.
 - The elevation/gradient in Monmouth County on a ride might be 30 feet per mile, whereas on the remote hill rides, they might be 60 feet per mile.
 - The distances would range from approximately 48 – 70 miles, with 5,000 – 7,000 feet of elevation. Shorter rides may be arranged, but gradients would remain similar.
 - While Ward will continue to lead several of these rides, **ride leaders are needed.**
- Barb described a possible change with respect to certain well-established recurring rides that are typically attended by experienced members, from having a pre-designated ride leader to being a peer-led ride. This program will be discussed at a posted meeting on the topic to be held on March 27 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Information on the program has been made available on the website (<https://www.jsts.us/PeerLed>).
 - o Barb noted that in the event of weather, it is hoped that riders will contact each other to determine whether or not to proceed with the ride.
 - o Rob Nuara asked about how route modifications be handled? Rob Leitner suggested that a consensus approach would be taken. Rob Nuara noted that communication of such changes at the start (or the day of) the ride could be problematic, as many riders need to program/load the route prior to arriving at the start. Barb noted that riders can communicate information to the webmaster for dissemination, or can e-mails.
 - o There was discussion regarding the need to take attendance at the ride, for insurance purposes. (See separate discussion below.)

- o With respect to riders who experience mechanical or physical issues, would other riders feel responsibility to ensure that the rider is not left alone? There was discussion, and it was noted that our members have generally not abandoned disabled riders, and it was also noted that different cycling clubs have different practices. For example, Rob Leitner noted that he also belongs to a club in another location that has “drop rides” whose members would not stop for a rider experiencing a flat. It is expected that this topic may be discussed at the March 27 meeting.
- o There was extended discussion of the proper process for filing insurance claims, including who should file such claims, possible liability for non-members riding with the club or causing injury to club members on the ride. It was agreed that Mike Streett and Mark Schussel would participate in further discussion with the Board and the Club’s insurance brokers.
- o In response to a question, Barb noted the peer-led ride program would be assessed via informal feedback.
- Pat discussed the [“Bikes and Beers” event scheduled for May 4](#). Pat gave an overview of the event and the coordination between event and local bike clubs and local breweries. To participate, our Club would have to provide 10 volunteers, and it was agreed that we would seek 10 volunteers and pursue participation in this event.
- Ward introduced Mark Schussel, who reported on the efforts of the Bike Advocacy and Community Outreach Committee. Mark reported that the Committee’s objectives included:
 - o Increasing awareness of bike passing laws,
 - o Supporting general bike safety awareness with the community as a whole, law enforcement, local officials,
 - o Garnering positive publicity for Club, and
 - o Forging relationships with various groups (EasyRide), bike shops, and others.
- The Committee has outlined a program for actions for our club to take – which require active membership involvement. The program includes:
 - o Sending letters to be sent to local officials, to be signed/sent by resident members, on general bike safety issues,
 - o Members attending town council meetings; bringing or joining experts like those from EasyRides where it makes sense,
 - o Issuing press releases re: initiatives in this area,

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- o Creating events - e.g., community rides, maybe with town recreation departments, adding a safety component that the Club would plan and coordinate. (e.g., bike safety checks)
- The Committee plans to start small, and learn and refine the program.
- Mark noted that member participation is critical, and asked for feedback. Pat responded that this is something the Club should be doing, and would be the subject of additional discussion post-meeting.
- Dave Makow gave an update on the end of season party, now planned for October 27, between 5:00 and 8:00 at the Freehold Township Senior Center. It is hoped that 80 to 100 members and guests would attend.
- No other matters of significance were discussed.
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:37 pm, with approximately 31 members then in attendance.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2024.