

**WALK! BIKE! BROCKPORT! ACTION GROUP**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 9, 2013**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alicia Fink, Peter Randazzo, William Andrews, Merrill Melnick , Raymond Duncan, Sri Ram Bakshi, Patricia Coates

**1. STONE SOUP AUCTION**

Alicia Fink, Treasurer, reported on the May 9, 2013, Stone Soup auction. The purpose of the auction was to raise matching funds for a recent grant to produce a mural on the north side of the Village of Brockport DPW building on East Avenue.

Money generated by the Stone Soup auction:

Auction.....	\$4835.00
Mug Sales.....	255.00
Raffle Tickets.....	<u>779.00</u>
Total.....	\$5869.00

After the Auction's expenses are factored in [\$298.06], net profit from the Auction is: \$ 5570.94

**2. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) UPDATE**

Bill Andrews reported on one of the SRTS projects: the need to enforce speed limits on streets near our schools. The Brockport Police Department will be taking steps in this direction. The next meeting of the SRTS Committee will be May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Jim Goetz, head of Walk Bike! Brockport's "Walk to School" Committee, leads the SRTS Committee. He formed it in response to BISCO's generous offer of possible future funding for a WBB project focused on children in the greater Brockport area.

**3. SATURDAY MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>, CONFERENCE BIKE RIDE**

Ray Duncan described how WBB members joined Prof. Lauren Lieberman and some of her graduate students to ride her new "Conference Bike" to Spencerport and back. This ride was part of the Low Bridge High Water five-day festival (May 1-May5). Lauren is Founder and Director of Camp Abilities is a one=week

developmental sports camp for children and teens who are blind, visually impaired and deaf-blind.

For a more complete description of riding the Conference Bike, see the Suburban News, Issue No. 19, Sunday, May 12, 2013.

For those of you who may have missed the Suburban News, please see the attached article.

4. **COMMUNITY TRAIL UPDATE**

Peter Randazzo gave a brief report on the status of our beautiful community trail located in the Town of Sweden Community Park. The trail is in need of several new trail markers that have been vandalized and/or unintentional knocked down. Peter will be following up this repair project.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Alicia Fink suggested the possibility of a Bikeathon as a fund-raiser event, with the proviso that any fundraiser should have a specific purpose for the use of such funds. Discussion followed, led by Peter Randazzo, regarding liability aspects of such an event. Pat Coates suggested that a waiver form should take care of liability issues.

Bill Andrews reminded us that Music at our Brockport Visitor Center will take place each Thursday during July and August—with the exception of July 4th. WBB will host a guided bike ride during the hour before each of these music events.

Two other important events to keep in mind:

Monday, July 8.....WBB will greet bikers making the annual Erie

Canal Ride from Buffalo to Albany

Sunday, July 21.....Ride Across New York (FANY) bicyclists will

camp out in Brockport. WBB likes to participate

In serving food on this date and, if possible, to

provide music.

## RIDING THE “COOL” CONFERENCE BIKE

What, you may ask, is a “Conference Bike?”

Take a look at this photo. This is a “Conference Bike.” Imported from Germany, it has seven seats and seven sets of pedals. A total of only 350 such bikes are found in the world. One person steers and pedals; the other six riders hold on to the metal ring in the middle and pedal. Everyone chats and enjoys each other’s company—in other words they hold a conference while biking.



The people in this picture from left to right are: Ray Duncan (Chairperson, Walk! Bike! Brockport! Action Group), Dr. Lauren Lieberman (Founder and Director of Brockport’s Camp Abilities), Ute Duncan and Rosie Rich. They are preparing to bike from Brockport to Spencerport and back on Saturday, May 4, as part of

Brockport's First Annual "Low Bridge High Water" celebration of the annual opening of the Erie Canal. The purpose of the ride was to accompany the Regatta racing from Spencerport to Brockport. Village Trustee Margay Blackman organized the Festival.

Three other participants on the ride to Spencerport joined the quartet of riders: John Maier, Emory Morris and Tiffany Mitrakos (one of Dr. Lieberman's graduate students). Octavio Furtado (a grad student, funded by the government of Brazil to study with Dr. Lieberman) came along on his own bicycle.

The Dorthea Haus Foundation awarded a \$14,500.00 grant to make it possible for Dr. Lieberman to acquire the Bike. She will use it in her Brockport Camp Abilities program. **Camp Abilities is a one-week developmental sports camp for children and teens who are blind, visually impaired, and deafblind. This year's dates for Camp Abilities in Brockport are June 23-29.** See Camp Abilities website: <http://www.campabilitiesbrockport.org/>

It should be noted that Dr. Lieberman is a professor at The College at Brockport in the area of Adapted Physical Education where she serves as Undergraduate Coordinator of the Adapted Physical Education Concentration. In addition to teaching graduate and undergraduate classes, she supervises practicum experiences at both the undergraduate and graduate level. She is fluent in sign language and is a national leader of physical education and sport programs for youth who are deaf and frequently lectures and instructs worldwide.

So here is what happened on the 7-person Conference Bike Ride to Spencerport and back on the Canal towpath. Other riders and hikers dropped their jaws and shouted, “Wow!” “Cool,” “Oh my God!” or “What the heck is that?” Fire engine trucks and Police cars stopped on the road beside the towpath, stuck smart phones out their windows and snapped off photos.

In Adams Basin a group of riders helped maneuver the heavy bike around posts blocking the canal path from large vehicle entry. Below is a photo of the helping hands.



The best part of the ride happened when we returned to Brockport. Dr. Lieberman took us to a SUNY-College at Brockport 's athletic field. There, some of her graduate students had joined staff members of the Rochester Rookies Wheelchair Team to work with children with Spina Bifida. It came as a surprise when the Rochester Rookies Wheelchair Team presented Dr. Lieberman with an award for her outstanding work with wheelchair-bound children. The photo below shows Gregg Chalmers, Coach of Rochester Rookies, and JoAnn Armstrong, Founder of the Program and Co-Coach, presenting the award to Dr. Lieberman. Gregg Chalmers' son, Ryan, is currently pushing his wheelchair across America. Check out his website: <http://pushacrossamerica.org/>



The youngest of the kids, Shay, got to ride around the track, seated on the lap of Maebh Barry, a Dr. Lieberman graduate student from Ireland. Below is a photo of them:



What a wonderful day on the Conference Bike—experiencing the historic Village of Brockport, the Canal and our university.

An altogether uplifting day riding the ‘way cool Conference Bike!

Submitted by Raymond Duncan

Chairperson, Walk! Bike! Brockport! Action Group