

6/1/17 debrief of CYCLENC 2017

Eric Kindle – The Bean: Mr. Kindle stated he was not present for the trash can discussion but as a business owner whose trash cans are accessible to the public, they fill up quickly. He stated, on occasion, has had to take his trash from The Bean to his home as his were full due to public use. Manager Miller stated that, for example, when a storm is coming and the water rises, transients on boats and visitors will fill up the public cans to where they overflow and eventually washes the trash into the river. Discussed placing another can at the river. Lisa Thompson of Sea Harbour stated that she believes the public does not realize how much the Town pays for them to have the public trash cans and the Town should think about making this information public.

Marsha Paplham – for Tourism and as a business owner: Spoke about Cycle NC and the benefit to the Town and businesses. April was extremely good for business with the four events in Town. Several other businesses stated the same. Ms. Paplham queried customers as they entered her store (Marsha's Cottage) and all had positive things to say about the Town and the event. As part of the Tourism Board, she would like to see what other events we can bring into the Town in that time frame. Eric Kindle of The Bean stated the same and feels we should encourage the Town residents to be more supportive of these events as they are beneficial to the Town.

Larry Summers – Stated he and Bill Hines took out 113 paddlers, very good response.

Manager Miller stated her experience was the opposite. Staff was not treated well, object of profanity and received complaints from cyclists and residents. She is aware the businesses did well but the residents and cyclists that were inconvenienced were extremely vocal.

EMS and CarolinaEast were not impressed with communication, for example, there was a route change as CarolinaEast was en route.

The Town was told there would be a tent for registration in our parking lot. Cycle NC arrived with an RV, three tents and six trucks taking up the entire lot belonging to Oriental First Baptist Church.

Miscommunication was the issue. The Town repeatedly asked for routes, Town was the last to receive them. At one point, Manager Miller was trying to deliver the parts to Public Works to fix the broken hydrant and cyclists would not give her space to drive through.

Parking on the streets, in front of mailboxes and in driveways were also an issue.

Manager Miller acknowledges that we do only have so many miles of road so not sure what the solution is.

Open alcohol in the parks and on the street was also an issue.

Larry Summers suggested setting up a tent city out at the Recreation Park. Marsha Paplham suggested utilizing our camps as the children are not there yet.

The issue with those is that even though they ride all over the county, the start and finish lines are in Oriental.

Limiting the number of cyclists was also discussed. This event was capped at 1,400 and they took 1,480 cyclists.

Manager Miller stated that several things will need to be done better for the Town to have staff to take care of it.

Lisa Thompson also said that we may need more volunteers.

Manager Miller said there were visiting cyclists in Oriental the two weekends following the event as well.