

MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors

New Richmond Civic Center, May 22, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Item in Italics Added After Publication of the Agenda

CALL TO ORDER – André Johnson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:30 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE - The agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall and on the Coalition web site.

ROLL CALL - Members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Andrew Lamers, and Mark Vanasse. Board members Pam Kaiser, Kyle Lindstrom and David Mandel were absent. Mike Hartman (until ~ 6:55 p.m.) and Brandi Popenhagen were also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Following discussion about moving items 2 and 3 to the end of the agenda, a **motion** (Gherty, Lamers) to adopt the agenda with the proposed amendment. **Carried** with no opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. Mike Hartman, Hartman Homes, brought subdivision maps and material regarding the Pine Cliff Phase 4 subdivision development currently being finalized with the Town of Somerset. Hartman was seeking comments from the Coalition Board members about trails being considered for this phase of the subdivision when there are breaks in connectivity with other phases within the subdivision as well as with other nearby subdivisions. After discussing several specific details of this particular project and trends in subdivision creation emerging in municipalities in St. Croix County regarding trail inclusion in new subdivisions, general consensus among Board members was that Hartman should continue his discussions with the Town of Somerset about the final outcome of trails in the Pine Cliff Phase 4 area since the Town has the authority to make determinations about trails in subdivisions located within its boundaries.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – April 3, 2019 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Lamers) to approve the April 3, 2019, minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Communications Committee – Gherty indicated progress on several initiatives for communicating the Coalition’s work, specifically, press releases regarding Coalition activities, the bike hitch placement program underway, facilitation of various groups interested in trail related activities, etc.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the financial report providing specific information about fund raisers conducted in late April and early May and their impact on Coalition funds. He also discussed several large expenditures in May. Finally he detailed how both the fund raising money and expenditures affected the amount of funds available for the Coalition to spend. There were no questions from Board members.

Healthier Together – Heuser reported the continuing discussions about the Physical Activity team being moved under the Mental Health wing of the Healthier Together initiatives for the three hospitals in St. Croix County in the 2020-2022 cycle. In addition, the Bike to School Day was impacted in both Pierce and St. Croix Counties by inclement weather. Reports of rescheduled activities will be available when the events are completed.

Corporate Reports – Heuser indicated four of the six yearly reports due for the Coalition have been filed with the other two to be completed when state regulations allow. She also discussed monthly views of the Coalition web site which had been running in the 2000’s during the summer and fall months of 2018 but had fallen under 1000 during the winter months into 2019.

Bench Project – Heuser reported that the stone seating area of the gathering space located on the Main Trailhead of the Loop Trail would be installed on May 24th, that there would be a work day for Houlton Elementary students and parents on June 1st to complete the paver creation and some of the smaller trail rock installation and that the ground cover, bushes, small grasses and tree installation would be ongoing as

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schedules and weather permit. The goal is that most of the work on the space will be finished by the end of the 2018-2019 school year on June 11th.

Pathways – Heuiser reported that the Pathways committee is continuing strong trail work in New Richmond with a great deal of collaboration from the community.

Hudson/North Hudson Railroad Bridge – Gherty reported several positive connections with the City of Hudson, Village of North Hudson and St. Croix County regarding acquisition of the Union Pacific Abandoned Railroad Bridge between the City and Village. A determination date for a purchase proposal is late in August.

giveBIGscv – Vanasse reported a small amount of contributions to the Coalition during the 2019 *giveBIGscv* campaign with the hope that the ongoing effort in Somerset in the years to come will create greater awareness and more contributions.

Oliphant Fund Raiser – Vanasse reported the earnings for the fund raiser portion of this event as well as the raffle portion of the evening.

Others that may be available – Celebration of the Loop Trail Opening – Gherty discussed the delay in the Historic Stillwater Lift Bridge refurbishment and how that delay had affected the date of the two state Loop Trail Opening Celebration until May 2020. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and smaller gathering of dignitaries when the refurbishment is actually completed in the late fall of 2019. More details to follow as they are known.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Election of Officers for the Coalition Board - Following discussion, a **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to leave the officers the way they are. [Chairperson, André Johnson; Vice-Chairperson, Andrew Lamers; Treasurer, Mark Vanasse; Secretary/Information Director and Grant Coordinator, Susan Heuiser]. **Carried** with no opposition.
4. Discussion of Details of Andrew Lamers' St. Croix County On-Line Trails Map – Lamers discussed the current features of his on-line map of trails in St. Croix County specifically asking for suggestions of further details that would make the map more usable and relevant for trail users. Several suggestions were discussed. Lamers will continue updating the map and report new details at the next meeting.
5. Generate a List of Organizations to Invite to the Loop Trail Opening Celebration – This topic was not discussed due to time constraints.
6. Authorization to Join Hudson Chamber of Commerce – Following discussion of the benefits of taking this action, a **motion** (Vanasse, Lamers) to join the Hudson Chamber of Commerce for \$150. **Carried** with no opposition.
7. Authorization to spend \$100 on outreach material – A **motion** (Gherty, Vanasse) to spend \$50 on the League of American Bicyclists' *Smart Cycling Quick Guide*. **Carried** with no opposition. Gherty will facilitate this purchase. The material will be used in various outreach situations. Gherty reported that the League of American Bicyclists organization indicated it would be acceptable to put a Trails Coalition stamp on their material. Consensus was to purchase a stamp of the Coalition logo for ~ \$25. Heuiser will obtain the stamp.
8. Ad hoc Committees for Summer Activities – Committees were named to carry out Coalition business during the summer months when the Board of Directors doesn't meet as indicated below.
 - a. Somerset Trail Coordination – Johnson, Heuiser, Vanasse, Somerset Schools
 - b. Houlton Community Art Bench Gathering Space Celebration – Heuiser and Vanasse
 - c. Loop Trail Opening Celebration – MN – Tim Witzmann, lead, Gherty, Heuiser, Janet Lindstrom and Dave Mandel

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- d. Loop Opening Celebration WI – Tim Witzmann, lead, Gherty, Heuiser, Johnson, Pam Kaiser, Susan Stepka and Vanasse.
 - e. Landing Hill Discussions – Heuiser, Johnson, Kyle Lindstrom and Vanasse
 - f. Hudson/North Hudson Railroad Bridge – Gherty, Heuiser and Vanasse
 - g. Hudson Chamber – Gherty and Heuiser
 - h. St. Croix EDC – Gherty, Heuiser and Johnson
 - i. Others – No other committees were identified.
9. Healthier Together Grant Applications – Heuiser discussed grant applications being considered by the Healthier Together organization specifically regarding the policy of the Coalition serving as the fiscal agent for these applications. General consensus among Board members was that this kind of acceptance of responsibility should not be a part of the Coalition’s contribution to Healthier Together actions. Heuiser will relay that information to the Healthier Together organization.
2. Appointment of Board of Directors Alternates – A **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to appoint Brandi Popenhagen to the Board Alternate position that ends in 2020. **Carried** with no opposition.
3. Appointment of Board of Director Open Seat –No action was taken on this item.
9. Others – No other items were proposed.
10. Set next meeting date – August 14, 2019 OR September 11, 2019 – The next meeting will mostly likely be **September 11, 2019.**

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Lamers’ On-Line St. Croix County Trails Map, Generate a List of Organizations to Invite to the Loop Trail Opening Celebration, Loop Trail Opening Celebration (MN and WI), Hudson/North Hudson UP Railroad Bridge,

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – None identified at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuiser, Secretary