

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors
Town of Somerset Town Hall, January 10, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**

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 Trail Coalition’s web site.

ROLL CALL - Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuiser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser, Andrew Lamers, Mark Vanasse, and Tim Witzmann. Board members Dave Mandel and Marian Webber were absent. Alternates Ruth Steiner and Susan Stepka were present as was Ben Heuiser. Brett Budrow and John Hilgers from St. Croix County were at the meeting (until ~ 7:10 p.m.) to discuss some trail information/initiatives.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Johnson indicated that an amendment to the agenda moving Item #4 to Item #1 was needed to consider information from Budrow and Hilgers in a timely manner. A **motion** (Witzmann, Gherty) to approve the agenda with requested amendments. **Carried** with no opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. Hilgers presented information about a proposed St. Croix County TAP grant application to WisDOT regarding connecting the Loop Trail in Houlton to Willow River State Park along Hwy 35 moving south. The application will go before the Community Development Committee and the County Board for approval in the next couple of weeks.

There was some further discussion about the various other TAP grant applications being submitted from St. Croix County – the Town of St. Joseph, the City of New Richmond – and in Polk County in Osceola. The pros and cons about numerous applications from the same area were touched on briefly with the hope that some kind of coordination might come with summit activities discussed in Item #4 below.

Budrow brought a template of the new signage the County will use to mark trails as they develop. There is room to place route names/numbers and options to co-ordinate with markings municipalities may develop in this sign template that was generated by the County Transportation Department. County will begin placing these signs on bike routes along County Roads in the near future.

4. Outreach Plan for 2018 – Budrow discussed some tentative thinking about a County sponsored Bicycle Summit in the spring. Details such as target audience/invitation list, format for the event, date & location, length of event, possible topics, composition and number of committee members to plan this event, etc. were discussed in anticipation of forming a Summit Steering Committee to finalize those decisions. Witzmann indicated this would be an opportunity for bicycle stakeholders in the County to participate in outreach about the Bike & Ped plan and its possibilities. Gherty, Susan Heuiser, Steiner and Witzmann indicated interest in being on the steering committee that will be created.

ACTION TAKEN: Budrow will get an invitation out in the near future to a number of organizations asking for interested persons to be a member of the Steering Committee.

Later in the meeting, a **motion** (Witzmann, Gherty) to authorize the Coalition representative(s) to the County’s Summit Committee to contribute an amount not to exceed \$500 for expenses for the Summit. Discussion by the Board led to consensus among members that St. Croix County should be responsible for operational costs of the Summit and that Coalition funds should be spent only for added amenities the Coalition might view as instrumental to the Summit. There was also sentiment that the Board review and approve any proposed expenditure(s) if timing allowed. Ultimately, the motion **carried** with no opposition.

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APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – November 8, 2017 – A motion (Vanasse, Gherty) to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2017, meeting as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors Communications Committee – Details about a County wide summit were discussed under Item #4 above.

Witzmann called on Gherty to detail his plans for Community Education classes to be held in Hudson and New Richmond in April. Gherty anticipates the class will be ~ 90 minutes in length and cover topics such as the legalities of bicycle riding (*Rules of the Road*, etc.), bike etiquette, appropriate clothing, bike safety, device applications that can be used for various informational/safety issues associated with bike riding, etc. Members of the Board were invited to join the planning/send ideas to Gherty. A more detailed outline is expected at the February Coalition meeting.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the December 2017 (and fiscal 2017 year-end) financial report that had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. Allocation of various funds were defined. Several proposals were discussed for expenditures in 2018. Further discussion will occur at the February meeting.

Healthier Together- Susan Heuser reported that improvements to the *Bike to School Toolkit* are currently close to completion and will hopefully be distributed to the St. Croix and Pierce County schools systems in late winter/early spring. The date for the national and international celebration is May 9, 2018. Gherty reported a program rewarding youth for wearing helmets with a Dairy Queen voucher. Various communities could apply to granting agencies to provide this reward for riding safely with a helmet. Susan Heuser will take this suggestion to the Healthier Together committee for discussion. Lamers reported a new addition to the City of New Richmond police force – a bicycling patrol person.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Susan Heuser reported the Committee has not meant recently pending the receipt of updates/results of the Hwy 64 Corridor Phase 1 study.

Bench Project – Vanasse reported a slowdown of activity since the fall of 2017 but that efforts are beginning to pick up again in the New Year. Activities at Houlton Elementary regarding the design of the project by students are underway. There are potential grant applications the Coalition may apply for that Vanasse indicated will be an *in and out* in the Coalition budget not affecting operational funds at all.

Others that may be available – No other reports were discussed.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Hwy 64 Landing Hill Phase 1 Report (as available) – General discussion involved high praise for the actions taken by Warren White to date regarding an off road trail along the Landing Hill section of Hwy 64 between County Roads V and VV. A communication from White detailing the current information from WisDOT was discussed. White is proposing that he and a limited number of representatives from the Coalition and Town of Somerset visit the WisDOT offices in EauClaire to discuss possible options. Vanasse indicated he had communicated with the Town of Somerset and had a potential attendee available from that organization. In addition Ben Heuser, André Johnson, and Ruth Steiner indicated interest in attending the meeting. Susan Heuser will communicate with White regarding scheduling a meeting.
2. Recreational Opportunities Analysis Report from WisDNR – No information was available regarding this survey.
3. Appointment of Alternate Positions for the Board of Directors - A **motion** (Gherty, Witzmann) to reopen the nominations for Alternate Positions for the Board of Directors made at the October 4, 2017, Board of Directors meeting. **Carried** with no opposition. A **motion** (Witzmann, Gherty) to appoint Ruth Steiner as

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the 1 year Board of Directors Alternate and Susan Stepka as the 2 year Board of Directors Alternate.
Carried with no opposition

5. Fund Raising Plans for 2018 – Fund Raising efforts at *Barley John's* in New Richmond, the *Phoenix* in Baldwin and *Oliphant* in Somerset were discussed briefly. Options of offering helmets and T-Shirts either for sale or as prizes were discussed.
ACTIONS TAKEN: Johnson will check on costs of T-Shirts.
Kaiser and Vanasse will begin detailed planning and report more at the February meeting.
6. Other Items as Available – No other items were discussed.
7. Set next meeting date – February 14, 2018 – The **next meeting date** was set for **February 28, 2018**, at the Town of Somerset Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Outreach Efforts, Hwy 64 Landing Hill Phase 1 Report, Hwy 64 Corridor Committee, Fund Raising Plans for 2018, 2018 Budget, Mission Statement and Goals/Objectives, Recreational Opportunities Analysis Report from WisDNR

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – No items identified.

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Witzmann, Gherty) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at~ 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuiser, Secretary