

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike Pedestrian Trail Coalition - St. Croix County, Wisconsin
Town of Somerset Town Hall, February 24, 2016, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER – Tim Witzmann, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:30 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE – Witzmann indicated that notice of the meeting had gone out to lots of people.

ROLL CALL – Board members present were Rich Baillargeon Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Andrew Lamers, Mark Vanasse, Marian Webber and Tim Witzmann. Mark Gherty and David Mandel were absent. Others present were Brett Budrow (St. Croix County Community Development), Scott Counter (Town of Star Prairie), Bob Guenther (Village of Somerset), Michele Hermansen (Town of Star Prairie), Jim Heebink (New Richmond Pathways), Ben Heuser, Gary Knutson (Town of Richmond), Kyle & Janet Lindstrom (Town of St. Joseph), Jim Peirson (Town of Richmond), Larry Rauch (Town of Somerset), Agnes Ring (St. Croix County Supervisor), Pat Tuma (Town of St. Joseph), Jim Weber, and Noah Wiedenfeld (City of New Richmond).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Marian Webber, Johnson) to adopt the agenda as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – November 11, 2015 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Baillargeon) to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 11, 2015, as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Highway 64 Corridor Community Trails Discussion – Witzmann opened the discussion by indicating the meeting purpose was to talk about a connected trail network from the Loop Trail in the Town of St. Joseph along the Hwy 64 corridor to New Richmond and, further, to make certain that connections between the various municipalities are included in the discussions as St. Croix County updates its bike & ped plan.
 - a) Brief Overview of Current Plans by Each Participating Organization – Representatives from the municipalities listed below detailed their community’s current trail plans, some barriers to achieving those plans and highlighted places where communication was needed with the neighboring municipality before limited funds were expended for trails. Listed below are the individuals presenting information for each municipality.
 - i. Town of St. Joseph – Kyle and Janet Lindstrom
 - ii. Town of Somerset – Larry Rauch
 - iii. Village of Somerset – Bob Guenther
 - iv. Town of Star Prairie – Scott Counter
 - v. Town of Richmond – Gary Knutson
 - vi. City of New Richmond & Pathways – Andrew Lamers and Noah Wiedenfeld

Jim Heebink, New Richmond Pathways, and Marian Webber, River Valley Trails, provided details about their ~ 20 year organizations’ trail initiatives and efforts.

Brett Budrow provided information as needed for the discussion regarding St. Croix County’s preliminary map and plan details as the county’s bike & ped plan is updated.

- b) Breakout Sessions for Discussion Between Adjoining Municipalities Regarding Connectivity of Current Plans – Attendees broke into smaller groups composed of neighboring communities to review maps and discuss various options and details, including connections, available to adjacent municipalities.

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The small groups are listed below with some participants moving between the groups as discussions progressed.

i. Session 1

- 1) Towns of St. Joseph and Somerset – Village of Somerset listening/observing
- 2) Towns of Star Prairie & Richmond and City of New Richmond & Pathways

ii. Session 2

- 1) Towns of Somerset, Richmond and Star Prairie – City of New Richmond & Pathways listening observing
- 2) Town and Village of Somerset -Town of St. Joseph listening/observing

c) Report of Findings from Each Group

Kyle Lindstrom detailed some ideas discussed regarding connections between the Town of St. Joseph and the Town and Village of Somerset.

Lamers and Wiedenfeld detailed some ideas discussed regarding the Towns of Somerset, Star Prairie, Richmond and the City of New Richmond.

d) Conclusions – No final conclusions were drawn regarding the exact nature of a Hwy 64 trail corridor.

2. How to Proceed

Budrow indicated he will take what he had heard at this meeting to the trail discussion occurring at the county regarding map specifics. He also included some details being discussed as the implementation portion of the updated bike & ped plan are prepared. In addition, public meeting and input opportunities later in the spring were highlighted although no definite date has yet been determined for those events.

Ring encouraged all attendees to get/stay involved-in the bike & ped plan update, to encourage their peers to do the same, and to attend future public meetings to provide county elected officials and staff with information about updated plan details but also the enthusiasm or lack thereof that exists county wide regarding trails.

Though interest was indicated during the evening for further trail discussion among the Hwy 64 communities, no specific plan was identified about how to accomplish that discussion at this time.

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

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Lamers, Ben Heuser) to adjourn. **Carried** at ~ 8:15 p.m. with no opposition.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuser, Secretary