

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Pedestrian Trail Coalition Communication Committee
City of New Richmond Civic Center, September 4, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER - Mark Gherty, 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 – Committee members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, Andrè Johnson and Andrew Lamers. Committee members absent were Tim Witzmann and Alternate Mark Vanasse. Also attending were Ben Heuser and Susan Stepka (after 7 p.m.).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Johnson, Lamers) to adopt the agenda as written. **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 – May 14, 2019 – A **motion** (Johnson, Gherty) to waive reading of the minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS – from individuals about information gathered for the committee – There were no reports.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Loop Trail Opening Celebration – Currently being planned for May 15 – 16, 2020 – The next meeting of the Loop Trail Opening Celebration is set for September 19th when more information will be available about the actual opening of the Historic Lift Bridge. Meanwhile, planning for activities in Stillwater are underway with a number of community activities planned.
2. Bicycle Hitch/Rack Initiative – Bike racks have been installed at Jewelltown Roastery in Star Prairie. Another is set for installation at the Somerset Library this fall. Plans are to write a grant for more installations around the area as work continues to make St. Croix County more bicycle friendly.
3. Summer Ad Hoc Committees
 - a) Lift and Loop Celebration – See Item #1
 - b) Union Pacific Railroad Trestle and Accompanying Property – Gherty discussed the nature of these properties involved in this discussion, the nature of the abutting properties, and the progress of the ongoing considerations regarding the properties. The process is fluid and everchanging at this point with no definitive action completed to date.
 - c) Art Bench Trail’s Gathering Space at the Main Trailhead of the Loop Trail – The dedication ceremony for the latest and cornerstone Art Bench Trail *bench*, Houlton Hawk’s Landing *gathering space*, will happen Saturday, September 21st, at 10 a.m. at the Main Trailhead of the St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail.
 - d) Hudson Chamber of Commerce – Gherty has been elected Chairperson of the Tourism Committee for the Chamber and will be working on several initiatives some of which include trail issues. The Chamber will be part of the group presenting at the Polk County Tourism Conference. See details in Item #4.
 - e) St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation – The EDC will be part of the group presenting at the Polk County Tourism Conference. See details in Item #4.
4. Polk County Tourism Conference – The new Wisconsin Secretary of Tourism will be at this Polk County Conference on Thursday, September 26th. The Coalition is working on a presentation in conjunction with St. Croix County, St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation, Hudson Chamber of Commerce and the City of Stillwater to highlight the benefits of the Loop Trail to the area.
5. Beyond the Loop Initiative – The Pathways group from New Richmond is spearheading a project to get some information (maps and apps) available for trail users by May 2020 when the Loop Trail Opening

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Celebration occurs to let users know what is available right then as far as trails use extending from the Loop Trail. Several members of the Coalition are working with the Pathways group on this effort.

6. Communication Plan – Moving forward the Communication Committee plans to continue the bicycle rack initiative, continue getting accurate information to interested parties via various methods to be discussed with the Board of Directors as time requires and continue working cooperatively with groups interested in trails and trail promotion in the area.
7. Other(s) – Three topics were discussed as detailed below.
 - a) Both Susan Stepka and Ruth Steiner have stepped down from the Communications Committee which leaves two seats on this committee open. Heuiser will put notices out.
 - b) Stepka brought information about a bicycle ride in Scandia/Marine on St. Croix that combines geology stops and a 15-mile bike ride. SCANDIA ROCKS and ROLLS see details at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4324969> .
 - c) Lamers believes the City of Hudson is working on a bike & ped plan that may soon be available for public viewing.
8. Set next meeting date October 7, 2019 of November 4, 2019 – The next Communications Committee meeting was set for **November 4, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the New Richmond Civic Center.**

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA - Loop Trail Opening Celebration, Bicycle Hitch/Rack Initiative, Lift and Loop Celebration, Union Pacific Railroad Trestle Properties, Beyond the Loop Initiative, Collaboration with Hudson Chamber of Commerce & St. Croix County EDC, Communication Plan

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – None at this time.

ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA – Loop Trail Opening Celebration, Bicycle Hitch/Rack Initiative, Union Pacific Railroad Trestle Properties, Gathering Space Dedication, Polk County Tourism Conference, Beyond the Loop Initiative

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Johnson, Lamers) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuiser, Secretary