

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

Town of Somerset Town Hall, October 10, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Items in Italics were added to the agenda after its publication.

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 - Board members present were Susan Heuser, André Johnson, and Andrew Lamers. Alternate Board members Susan Stepka and Ruth Steiner were also present. Board member Mark Gherty, Pam Kaiser, Dave Mandel, Mark Vanasse and Marian Webber were absent. Ben Heuser and Noah Wiedenfeld (until~7:25 p.m.) were also in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Lamers, Steiner) to adopt the agenda. **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 – August 9, 2018 – A **motion** (Lamers, Stepka) to approve the August 9, 2018, minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Communications Committee – In Tim Witzmann’s absence, Johnson reported on the October 1, 2018, Communications Committee indicating that most of the issues were either on the agenda or in the reports.
Financial Report – In Vanasse’s absence, Susan Heuser provided details for the October financial reports. There were no questions.

Healthier Together- Susan Heuser reported that Healthier Together had sponsored a Walk to School Day in the St. Croix and Pierce County Elementary Schools with some schools walking on October 3rd, other schools opting for October 10th and some postponing the activity because of inclement weather. Johnson reported there were 95 walkers at Somerset Elementary. Healthier Together continues working on establishing wellness policies and implementing the Core 4+ program in the two county school districts.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – With the information regarding WisDOT TAP grant funding for the 2018 round availability, a recommendation was made to wait to meet this committee until some definition of how communities would proceed with trail issues occurs– likely early in 2019.

Bench Project – Susan Heuser discussed the project budget, the current project funding in place, an October pancake breakfast fund raising event at the school, and the anticipated date when the architect selected to help the Houlton Elementary students design this Art Bench “gathering space” will begin meeting with students. She reported that excitement is high to get this space in place on the Trailhead of the Loop Trail across from Houlton Elementary.

Landing Hill Trail Study - Discussion included details of an August meeting with Town of Somerset, St. Croix County and WisDOT officials along with Warren White and members of the Coalition regarding how best to proceed with study of the Landing Hill area after White’s Phase 1 trail study completion. Ultimately, the decision was for the Town to direct trail studies of the area in conjunction with County Transportation Department officials with no action anticipated in the near future. There remains an issue of payment to White for some preliminary work on Phase 2. Mark Vanasse will discuss methods of dealing with this issue at the November Board meeting.

City of Hudson/Hwy 35 Construction Planning – In lieu of Gherty’s absence, discussion of this item was postponed until the next meeting.

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Polk County Trail Non-motorized Issues – Johnson had done some research regarding trails in Polk County as follows. Both the Stower Seven Lakes Trail (14.5 miles in length) and the Gandy Dancer Trail (20 miles in Polk County) are state trails - with Johnson indicating a lack of understanding about why Polk County is involved in decisions about state trails. Additional information he provided included Polk County itself has 2 miles of bike and pedestrian trails and 320.35 miles of dedicated ATV/UTV trails – indicating plenty of motorized trail availability within the county compared to a very limited amount of non-motorized trails availability within the county.

New Richmond TAP Grant – Wiedenfeld from the City of New Richmond detailed information about the City's \$777,529 TAP grant award for an off road trail along County Road A as it intersects Business 64 on the west side of the City. Some of the items discussed were that there is lighting along the route, it will likely be 2020 at the earliest and perhaps 2021 before this construction begins, design is not complete and is complex around the Westfield Hospital property and other spots, the project is in conjunction with a proposed trail project connecting the Nature Center to County Road A and other points. Coalition members congratulated the City for its success in a significant upgrade to their already extensive trails system.

Trail Eminent Domain Issue – Wiedenfeld provided details about Representative Rob Stafsholt's meeting with the New Richmond Pathways Committee regarding a bill he authored to eliminate the use of eminent domain for *recreational trail* construction and in particular how it is affecting a St. Croix County road project along County Rd GG between 140th and 150th Streets along the border of the City of New Richmond and Town of Richmond. The statute has caused a delay in construction, possible loss of federal funding and a substantial redesign cost to eliminate an on road trail from the County Road GG project. Representative Stafsholt indicated he authored the bill to protect citizens' property rights as trail planning projects occur in the state. Pathways members and County staff pointed out logistical issues and design requirements that don't always allow for placing extended pavement sections entirely in the Right of Way of a particular road. They also indicated the proposed on road trail along County GG would have provided increased safety for two subdivisions along the route. A candidate forum is planned for October 11th at 7 p.m. at the New Richmond Civic Center where further discussion of the issues could take place.

Gaming Commission Audit – Susan Heuser reported the gaming commission routine audit on September 25, 2018, provided helpful information/suggestions regarding raffle events and found the Coalition to be in generally good standing with record keeping practices.

Others that may be available – There were no other reports presented.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. New Communications Committee Chairperson Approval –Tim Witzmann has indicated a desire to step down from the Chairperson of the Communications Committee position. Gherty indicated an interest in the position at the Communications Committee. A **motion** (Steiner, Stepka) to nominate Mark Gherty to be Chairperson of the Communications Committee assuming the position in January 2019. Johnson called for other nominations. Hearing none, Johnson called for a vote. **Carried** with no opposition.
2. Recommendation from Communication Committee to Increase the Committee Membership by Adding 2 Alternate Positions – Discussion of this item was postponed until the next meeting.
3. Recommendation from Communications Committee to Join the St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation - A **motion** (Johnson, Lamers) to join the St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation in 2019 at the entry level. **Carried** with no opposition.

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4. Recommendation of Addition of a Press Release Policy to the Standard Policies document used to govern the Coalition - Discussion of this item was postponed until the next meeting after the Communications has time to further define the policy.
5. Discussion of Other Changes to the Standard Policy Document – In lieu of the decision to postpone changes to the Press Release Policy in Item #4, discussion of this item was postponed until the next meeting.
6. Update on availability of Board of Directors and Alternate Seat on the Board of Directors – Susan Heuser reported that no messages had been received regarding either seat on the Board of Directors. Notice will be posted again.
 - a) Election of Vice Chair - Discussion of this item was postponed until the next meeting.
7. Update on Bicycle Summit – Susan Heuser reported a message from St. Croix County’s Community Development Department staff that the bicycle summit would not occur until closer to the opening of the Loop Trail now scheduled for late summer/early fall 2019.
8. Establish Funding/Support Stream – Raffles, fund raisers not including raffles, and the United Way *GiveBIG* program were discussed as funding support. More discussion to follow at the next meeting.
9. Set next meeting date – November 14, 2018 – The **next meeting** date was set for **November 14, 2018, at the New Richmond Civic Center.**

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Landing Hill Trail Study Payment Completion, Recommendation from Communication Committee to Increase the Committee Membership by Adding 2 Alternate Positions, Recommendation of Addition of a Press Release Policy to the Standard Policies document used to govern the Coalition, Other Changes to the Standard Policy Document, Update on Availability of Board of Directors and Alternate Seat on the Board of Directors, Election of Vice Chairperson, and Establish Funding/Support Stream

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

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Steiner, Lamers) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuser, Secretary