

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors  
Town of Somerset Town Hall, September 11, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - Andrè Johnson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE** – Agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall and on the Trails Coalition web site.

**ROLL CALL** – Board members present were Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser, Andrew Lamers, Kyle Lindstrom and Mark Vanasse. Board members Mark Gherty and David Mandel were absent as was Alternate Brandi Popenhagen. Ben Heuser and Janet Lindstrom were also present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Lindstrom, Lamers) 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** – May 22, 2019 - A **motion** (Lamers, Lindstrom) to approve the May 22, 2019, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors  
Communications Committee- Johnson outlined the September 4, 2019, meeting discussion items indicating that most were on the agenda for later discussion.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the June, July and August revenues and expenses as well as the funds available. There were no questions about the report.

Healthier Together – Susan Heuser reported that the Library Backpack Program is in the process of filling 16 backpacks with tools for outdoor activities for placement in 16 libraries in St Croix and Pierce Counties. These backpacks were made possible by a grant from Allina Hospital.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – The Board thought it wise to have this committee meet in October or early November to discuss issues along the Trail Corridor. Susan Heuser will work to set up a meeting.

Bench Project – Vanasse indicated the Houlton Hawks Landing *gathering space* will be dedicated Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. This is the tenth and keystone project in the Art Bench Trail, a program of the Phipps Center for the Arts.

Pathways – The group continues work in the New Richmond area on both land and water trails. They held a successful 5K Willow River Run in New Richmond’s Mary Park and some proceeds from that run will go to the Pathways group.

Others that may be available – Susan Heuser had two additional items to report.

First, a message from Senator Schachtner’s office indicating there is currently a bill in both the Senate and Assembly at the legislature to reinstate eminent domain for state and local governments to acquire land or interest in land to build state recreational trails, bike lanes or way, and sidewalks. It has been referred to committee and will get a proper hearing with debate before it will be considered by either legislative body.

Second, a communication from the St. Croix Economic Development Corporation that there may be monies available to work on economic development issues with the EDC. There will be an application process in the near future. The Board members discussed a trail summit as a possible project. Susan Heuser will follow up by obtaining details about the application process.

**ITEMS for discussion and/or action**

1. On-Line St. Croix County Trails Map and Beyond the Loop Trails Map – Lamers discussed details of the two separate projects. The *St. Croix County Trails Map* has been under construction for several months and will reside on the Coalition web site. The *Beyond the Loop Trails Map* is a new initiative in conjunction with the Pathways committee in New Richmond to get both an online and paper mapping tool showing

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where trails are currently available in St. Croix County that connect to the Loop Trail. The goal is to have these applications ready for distribution by the time the Loop Trail opens in May of 2020.

2. Loop Trail Opening Celebration – This celebration is currently scheduled for May of 2020. More information will be forthcoming soon about the actual date the Stillwater Historic Lift Bridge will open for bike and pedestrian traffic.
  - Generate a List of Organizations to Invite to the Loop Trail Opening Celebration – Consensus among the Board was to continue to work on this list as the celebration gets closer.
3. Bicycle Hitch/Rack Initiative – This initiative was one the Communications Committee indicated an interest in pursuing long term as a way to make the area more bicycle friendly. Johnson reported on racks already installed at Jewelltown Roastery in Star Prairie and articles in two local papers were reviewed. Vanasse indicated the Somerset Library will soon install another rack along with a bicycle repair station donated by the Somerset Lions Club. Discussion continued about a proposed grant process to place more of the bike racks in the area. A **motion** (Vanasse, Lindstrom) to apply for a \$1500 Daybreak Rotary grant for bike racks. **Carried** with no opposition.
4. Gathering Space Dedication – See *Bench Project* under reports.
5. Polk County Tourism Conference – Susan Heuser reported a team of organizations from the St. Croix area will make a presentation at the September 26, 2019, Polk County Tourism Conference at which the new Wisconsin Secretary of Tourism will be present. Organizations presenting will be Hudson Chamber of Commerce, St. Croix County Community Development Department, St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation, and the City of Stillwater.
6. Union Pacific Railroad Trestle Properties – Johnson discussed the ongoing acquisition process regarding this property located between the City of Hudson and the Village of North Hudson with specifics about the property itself, organizations owning abutting properties, some of the restrictions on the property because of the St. Croix River’s scenic river designation, some preliminary parameters for development of the property were it to be obtained. etc.
7. Communication Committee Emphasis Moving Forward – The Communications Committee indicated an interest in pursuing the Bike Rack/Hitch installation working with WITC and a local powder coating company as a way of making the area more bicycle friendly and as an outreach tool for the Coalition. Johnson has contacted the new welding instructor to begin discussions about how to proceed with the project. Funding for these projects will need to be from grant monies (See Item #3). In general, the committee thought its emphasis should be on programs to communicate accurate information regarding further trail development in the area.
8. Bicycle Summit – Discussion centered around whether the Coalition wants to participate in this event that would invite organizations and businesses to a gathering to discuss the benefits of trails for the area. There’s the possibility of other organizations besides St. Croix County participating in planning for this event. General consensus was to move forward finding partners to plan this event.
9. Trail Consortium Extending the Length of the St. Croix River on both MN and WI sides – A contact has been made concerning developing a consortium of trail supports along the length of the St. Croix River to support development of a connected trail from the juncture of the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers to the juncture of the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers. General consensus was that, while supportive and interested in this kind of organization, the Coalition is not quite ready to take an active part in initiating a project of this nature. A request to invite Ric Ahern to attend a future Coalition meeting to discuss the possibilities will be issued by Susan Heuser.
10. Potential Change of Direction for Trails Coalition – The Coalition’s mission statement was reviewed to make certain the direction of the organization will remain the same in the near future. General consensus

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was that extending a network of trails into St. Croix County and beyond would continue to be the focus of Coalition efforts.

11. Method of Operation for Trails Coalition – Discussion concerned a review of operations through a busy summer and brought affirmation that the way issues are handled between meetings will remain the same as they have been.
12. Other(s) – Vanasse reported the Somerset Library will have a block party to celebrate the new addition in mid to late October. He will make the Board aware of details when they are available.
13. Set next meeting date – October 9, 2019 – The **next meeting** was set for **October 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m.** at the **Town of Somerset Town Hall.**

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – EDC Grant Opportunity, St. Croix County Online Trails Map, Beyond the Loop Trails Map, Loop Trail Opening Celebration, Bike Rack/Hitch Initiative, Polk County Tourism Conference Report, Union Pacific Railroad Properties, Bicycle Summit, Trail Consortium Along the Length of the St. Croix River, Grant Writing Process Effect on Coalition

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION MEMBESHIP MEETING AGENDA** – None at this time.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuiser, Secretary