

**MINUTES Trail Coalition Board of Directors**  
**Town of Somerset Town Hall, February 10, 2016, 6:30 p.m.**

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

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE** – Mandel indicated the agenda was posted on the Coalition website and at the Town of Somerset Town Hall

**ROLL CALL** – Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Andrew Lamers, David Mandel, Mark Vanasse and Tim Witzmann. Rich Baillargeon and Marian Webber were absent. Also present was Ben Heuser.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Witzmann, 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. Witzmann and Gherty encouraged members to vote in the February 16<sup>th</sup> primary election indicating contests for placement on the ballot for at least the Somerset school board seats, the Hudson mayoral race and the state Supreme Court justice race.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – January 7, 2016 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to approve the January 7, 2016, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors  
Financial Report – Vanasse reported the details of very little activity on the financial status of the Coalition.  
Communications Committee – Witzmann reported on discussions at the February committee meeting about various future outreach venues for the county’s bike & ped plan update, participation in a Somerset Library summer biking event and participation in a possible county wide bike to school event being considered by the county Healthier Together initiative. Other committee members reported on progress with county outreach venues though nothing is firmly scheduled at this point.

Healthier Together – See Item #4 below.

**Others that may be available**

Hudson Hot Air Affair (HHAA) – Witzmann led the discussion about results of the outreach efforts at the HHAA and other board members who were at the Coalition booth during the course of the event also contributed thoughts. Many HHAA attenders responded to the questions asked providing the county a lot of data to be considered in the bike & ped plan update. It was noted there was enthusiastic support for the trail initiative by the county. Consensus was that it was a very successful event for trails.

Upgrade of Vine Street in Hudson = Gherty reported on plans to reconfigure traffic and parking along a portion of the heavily traveled Vine Street in the City of Hudson. Plans are not yet finalized but discussions have included bike paths in various configurations along the street. The upgrade will occur during the 2016 construction season.

Hwy 64 Corridor Trail Connections Meeting – Details about how the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be conducted were discussed as was the participants for the meeting and specific invitations to be issued by the Coalition. Susan Heuser will complete the arrangements for the meeting.

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

1. St. Croix County Bike & Ped Plan Update Progress - Lamers and Susan Heuser detailed some of the proposed changes to the current draft plan that were discussed at the Advisory Team meeting held on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Some details discussed were
  - a) The proposed map remains under discussion.

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- b) The county and its contractors are beginning work on the implementation portion of the plan.
  - c) Public open houses will occur later in the spring.
  - d) Public input is still being sought and informational outreach efforts continue.
  - e) The approval process is slated to begin in early summer with final approval by the County Board anticipated late summer into early fall.
- Meeting in a Box – Susan Heuser reported direction from County staff that outreach efforts will continue with informational presentations at various organizations but the outreach initiative involving public input at events by indicating choices in response to questions will draw to a close.
2. Economic Impact of Trails Study Details – Vanasse and Susan Heuser detailed the discussion with WI Bike Fed and Vandewalle & Associates regarding the possibilities of a study regarding the economic impact of trails in the St. Croix County area. General consensus was to continue to use the economic development studies already in the Coalition’s possession and to look for more information that might become available to support the economic impact of trails on the region. Susan Heuser will follow up with the WI Bike Fed.
  3. Town of St. Joseph TAP Grant Application Support – Vanasse led the discussion indicating that the Town of St. Joseph had filed a TAP grant application to create a trail from the Houlton Hill landing area of the Loop Trail to Andersen Scout Camp Rd and all the way to the town line on Andersen Scout Camp Road. He indicated this would be the first connection into St. Croix County from the Loop Trail and the first link in a Hwy 64 corridor that will create trails leading to Somerset, New Richmond and connections beyond.
  4. Participation in Possible Bike to School Event – St. Croix County’s Healthier Together initiative is discussing a possible bike to school day in the spring. Board members indicated interest in assisting with that activity when plans are further developed.-
  5. Annual Meeting Planning – April 30, 2016 - Consensus was to try to reserve the pavilion in Hudson’s Lake Front Park for the annual meeting. Susan Heuser will contact the City of Hudson. A potluck and bike ride are tentatively planned. More details to follow.
    - a) Election of Board Members Procedures – Consensus was to make no changes to the process for election of board members.
  6. Review Use of Calendaring Account – There has been little use of this calendaring account for Coalition board members and it likely will be discontinued in the near future.
  7. Stable Funding Source for the Coalition – A possible raffle was discussed as a 2016 fund raiser.-
  8. Possibilities regarding Tenth Board Member – Susan Heuser reported no progress in seeking a board member from eastern St. Croix County.
  9. Set next meeting date – March 9, 2016 – The next Board of Directors meeting was set for **April 13, 2016** unless a necessity for an earlier meeting arises.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Proposed 2016 Budget, St. Croix County Bike & Ped Plan Update Progress, Participation in Possible Bike to School Event, Annual Meeting Planning, Raffle Details

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA** – Hwy 64 Corridor Trail Discussion

**ADJOURNMENT** - A **motion** (Gherty, Witzmann) to adjourn. **Carried** at ~ 7:50 p.m. with no opposition.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuser, Secretary