

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike Pedestrian Trail Coalition - St. Croix County, Wisconsin
Town of Somerset Town Hall, 748 HWY 35, Somerset, Wisconsin - June 10, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER - Tim Witzmann, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:35 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE – Witzmann noted that the agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall and on the Coalition web site.

ROLL CALL - Trail Coalition Board of Directors present were Rich Baillargeon, Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, Andrew Lamers, Mark Vanasse, Marian Webber and Tim Witzmann. Dave Mandel, board chairperson, and Andre Johnson were absent. St. Croix County Supervisors Jill Berke and Agnes Ring were also present. There were 10 - 15 others in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Gherty, Vanasse) to adopt the agenda as presented. **Carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. William Johnson, Polk County Chairperson, Gandy Dancer President, etc., reported significant progress in connecting the Gandy Dancer Trail to the Stower Seven Lakes Trail in Polk County, a project under discussion for a number of years. Johnson also indicated that he's suggested to WisDNR that, when bicycle maps are created, PASER road ratings be included so bicyclists know that quality of the road they are considering riding.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – May 13, 2015 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to approve the May 13, 2015, minutes as presented. **Carried.**

REPORTS – from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the coalition
Communication Committee – Witzmann discussed the outreach booth that is prepared to attend festivals.
St. Croix County TAP Grant – Heuser indicated a report from St. Croix County that the contract between St. Croix County, Toole Design Group and WisDOT was completed on time and is on the governor's desk for review and signature. That contract will secure 2015 funds that will allow work on the updated bike & ped plan to begin hopefully as early as July.

Finance – Vanasse reported one donation and no expenditures in May.

Others that may be available

Hudson RiverFest – Gherty reported that the Coalition outreach team should be in Hudson's RiverFront Park on Thursday, July 23rd, at 5:30 p.m. for set up. The celebration of the river is from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. that evening. Webber added that a number of other people with bicycle connections would be present to visit with passersby.

Somerset Pea Soup Days – Ben Heuser reported on the Coalition booth at Pea Soup Days indicating that a number of people were interested in the trail issues within the county.

New Richmond Pathways – Jim Heebink detailed the Pathways origin and connections in New Richmond and discussed ongoing plans for August 22nd bike ride.

St. Croix County Health & Wellness – Susan Heuser reported there will be a fall walk to school day (taking several forms) on October 7th.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Funding – Gherty reported the Joint Finance Committee of the state legislature has recommended restoration of approximately 2 / 3 of the stewardship funding in the state budget. The governor's signature is required to make that action official

Little Falls Dam Issues – Gherty reported that an injunction had been filed by Lake Mallalieu Association temporarily halting the WisDNR proposed drawdown at the Little Falls Dam. At the time of this Coalition meeting, no decision had been reached. Subsequently, however, the issues were settled and the drawdown will proceed.

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ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Fall Fund Raiser – Vanasse reported the Coalition is not eligible to hold a raffle this year so that aspect of a fund raiser will not be available. **October 22nd** is the date set for an event at **Oliphant Brewery** in the Village of Somerset. Details will follow.

PRESENTATION by Chris Straight
Senior Planner, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Discussion about *Placemaking*

Straight discussed *Placemaking* around four key attributes identified by the Project for Public Spaces as being present in great places - namely, Uses & Activities, Access & Linkages, Comfort & Image and Sociability. Some details about each of these key attributes follows and were accompanied in the presentation by illustrative photos of places both encompassing the attributes and places not quite accomplishing the desired effect.

Uses & Activities – Studies indicate that people come to places that are fun/vital, active, indigenous, sustainable, affordable and challenging. Activities, events and programming are an important part of the discussion in the *Placemaking* process because visitors come when there are things to do – active, passive, indoors or outdoors, for children or adults, during the day or in the evening, during various seasons, with varied interests emphasized, celebrating heritage or natural beauties of the particular place, etc.

Access & Linkages – An important piece of the *Placemaking* process involves how people get to a place and what other amenities the place is close/connected to. Accommodations should be convenient, walkable/bikeable, continuous, connected and enticing. Connections between businesses, neighborhoods, other trail networks, activities and identified destinations are important. Consistent wayfinding and signage contributes to the ease of use of a system. The transportation portion of *Placemaking* has many potential conflicts that need to be discussed during the process.

Comfort & Image – Places that encourage visitors to linger and, equally importantly, return are inviting, attractive, historic, “green”, and friendly. Local assets and identity are highlighted in this aspect of *Placemaking*.

Sociability – Community is created by developing spaces that are welcoming, interactive, neighborly and diverse.

A couple of **major themes** to this *Placemaking* process emerged – **1)** This is an interactive process by various members and entities of communities – however “community” is defined – and based on that community’s assets, vision, issues and goals. **2)** Amenities need to be “sticky” – encouraging visitors to linger while there and return. **3)** Vibrant “places” have an identified and advertised critical mass of things to do. **4)** Ongoing attention to the system and maintenance of its separate pieces is essential.

2. Set next meeting date – September 9, 2015 – Witzmann indicated the next Coalition membership meeting will be **September 9, 2015**.

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – None were identified.

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Gherty, Baillargeon) to adjourn. **Carried** at ~ 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Heuser, Secretary