

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike Pedestrian Trail Coalition - St. Croix County, Wisconsin
City of New Richmond Civic Center - November 11, 2015, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER - David Mandel, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~6:45 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE – Mandel indicated that the agenda had been posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall and on the Trail Coalition web site.

ROLL CALL Board of Director members present were Susan Heuiser, André Johnson, David Mandel, Mark Vanasse and Tim Witzmann. Board members absent were Rich Baillargeon, Mark Gherty, Andrew Lamers and Marion Webber. Members and others present were Bill Driscoll, Dan & Jane Hansen, Ben Heuiser, Brad Hildebrandt, Rick Hinz and Agnes Ring.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Vanasse, Witzmann) 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. Dan Hansen noted that a legislative update with area state legislators will be held December 8th at WITC in New Richmond. Attendees begin gathering at 4:30 p.m. with an hour long discussion and question & answer session to begin at 5 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – June 10, 2015 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Witzmann) to approve the June 10, 2015, minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the coalition
Fund Raiser – Vanasse reported on the financial outcome of the October 14th fund raiser. He also indicated there was a nice turn out for the gathering.

Financial Report – Vanasse provided an update to the financial situation of the Coalition which included the addition of information from the fund raiser.

Communications Committee – Witzmann reported on an outreach meeting in Baldwin on October 6th indicating a good group present to hear both a Coalition and St. Croix County presentation regarding what is presently occurring in the county regarding trails and plan updates. The discussion that followed was about trails in general and in particular in the eastern part of St. Croix County

Bike Summit – Ben & Susan Heuiser provided highlights and information gathered at the Wisconsin Bike Fed's Bike Summit on November 6th.

Others that may be available – In Lamer's absence, Susan Heuiser provided information about the *Safe Routes To School* initiative beginning in New Richmond with Jane Hansen contributing further details.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. St. Croix County Bike & Ped Plan Update

- a. Inclusion of Railroad Beds in the Bike & Ped Plan Update – This item was not discussed.
- b. Inclusion of old Railroad Bridges in the Bike & Ped Plan Update - This item was not discussed.
- c. STH 64 WisDOT upgrade and the Trail Possibilities Associated with that Upgrade – Vanasse discussed the trail options being considered by the Town of St. Joseph as the first leg of a connection that would ultimately create a trail between the Loop Trail (part of the St. Croix River Crossing project) and the City of New Richmond. Susan Heuiser discussed in general WisDOT's plan to upgrade the Hwy 64 corridor sometime in the future as traffic demands, etc. dictate and the trail possibilities created by that upgrade. Discussion focused on the Hwy 64 corridor being the first connection to greater St. Croix County created. Discussion also focused on the need to create segments of the entire trail as time and funding allow and then ultimately to connect the segments at some time in the future. It was noted

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that the first step in this process would be to get this corridor designated on the map being created by St. Croix County as a part of their Bike & Ped Plan update.

- d. Meeting in a Box – The *Meeting in a Box* portion of St. Croix County’s Bike & Ped Plan update was discussed in some detail. There is an opportunity for organizations to request a speaker to provide information about the plan update. There is also an opportunity for interested persons to take training to present this outreach program to organizations. Service organizations, governmental bodies, school groups and boards, etc. were listed as possibilities for outreach. St. Croix County’s contact person is Amanda Engesether who can be reached at Amanda.Engesether@co.saint-croix.wi.us.
 - e. Rename Loop Trail - This item was not discussed.
 - f. Others that may occur – No other topics were raised.
2. St. Croix County Bicycle Survey and Its Implications for Action – continued – Johnson led this continued discussion gleaned information from the county survey to help determine which groups and organizations should be considered for outreach efforts in the county.
 3. Trail Checklist from Pennsylvania – Johnson led the discussion about a Trail Town Manual and Checklist from the Allegheny Trail Alliance regarding how to attract bicycle tourism in a community. It was noted that many ideas contained in the publications could be useful to St. Croix County communities.
 4. Suggestions for Board Action Regarding Adding a 10th Board Member from the Eastern Part of the County
There was general agreement that a board member from eastern St. Croix County should be sought as the effort to extend trails across the county becomes the focus of discussion as the Bike & Ped plan is updated. Susan Heuiser will make inquiries.
 5. Set next meeting date – January 13, 2016 – Mandel noted that the next membership meeting will be in the New Year on January 13th also noting that there is a Board of Directors meeting scheduled for December 9, 2015.

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – No items identified at this time.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA Inclusion of Railroad Beds in the Bike & Ped Plan Update, Inclusion of old Railroad Bridges in the Bike & Ped Plan Update, Addition of a Coalition Board Member from eastern St. Croix County,

ADJOURNMENT - A **motion** (Witzmann, Vanasse) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuiser, Secretary