

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

Town of Somerset Town Hall, 748 HWY 35, Somerset, WI - November 13, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

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

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Gherty, Lindstrom) 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.

- Vanasse reported the addition to the Somerset Library is well underway and the anticipated opening date is spring 2020.
- Lindstrom discussed how important it is to respond to WisDNR's comment period about the Master Plan for DNR properties in the *western prairie* portion of the state (St. Croix County and parts of Polk and Pierce Counties). The document contains information about all DNR property in the region, not just trails, but trails are an integral part at various points throughout document.
- Gherty reported that a fat tire bike race is being planned for the Hudson Hot Air Affair in February 2020.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – October 9, 2019 – A **motion** (Gherty, Vanasse) to approve the October 9, 2019, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors  
Communications Committee – Gherty discussed details of a Bicycle/EDC/Tourism Summit being tentatively discussed for April 2020 following the March tourism conference and as a segway to the opening celebration of the historic Stillwater Lift Bridge portion of the St. Croix Crossing Loop Trail being planned for May 2020. Exact details will wait for a committee formation that includes St. Croix County Community Development Department, St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation, the Trials Coalition and others. A message received from St. Croix County EDC on the meeting day indicated there would be some monetary support as well as planning and in-kind donations available from the EDC for such an event.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the financial report. There were no comments. Discussion ensued about holding raffle events in the near future. He and Kaiser will discuss some options for early 2020 and bring them to the Board.

Healthier Together – Susan Heuser reported that the library backpacks the group has been putting together are assembled and ready for distribution to libraries in St. Croix and Pierce counties. There has been a significant contribution of park passes by St. Croix County to those backpacks. Yearly passes have been made available at half price to the Healthier Together group.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Susan Heuser reported that this committee has not met and likely will not meet until 2020. There is a lot of work going on along the corridor, though. Perhaps some final results will be available in early 2020 when a meeting will be scheduled.

Bench Project – Vanasse reported the bench project is completed. Planning is beginning for the next phase of the project and regarding how to handle maintenance issues at the site. Vanasse indicated Houlton Elementary and the Phipps Center for the Arts are creating an historical record of the project and that the County should have those documents. He will contact the Houlton Principal and the Phipps Center for the Arts to get the documents to St. Croix County.

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Pathways – Susan Heuser reported Pathways did not meet in November and its next meeting will be December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Bicycle Hitch/Rack Initiative & Rotary Grant Status – Gherty reported the grant application to the Hudson Daybreak Rotary has passed the Finance Committee unanimously with high interest in pursuing this project as an ongoing activity in the future. The entire Rotary Board will vote on grant applications on November 15<sup>th</sup> at its regular meeting and then notification will be made of the awards. Gherty noted that River Valley Trails has donated bicycle repair station at Lakefront Park in Hudson and also at the St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail Main Trailhead.

UP Railroad Property – Gherty reported on his meeting with a local foundation to discuss details of the railroad property located between Hudson and North Hudson at the confluence of the Willow and St. Croix Rivers. There was strong interest from this group with an invitation to submit a grant request. Gherty indicated that much more detailed information was needed before a grant application could be filed. Budrow asked about details of the grant funding disbursement should it be successful. The most optimistic next step is for St. Croix County to get information necessary for a grant application finalized between all the participants.

Others that may be available – No other reports were presented.

### ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. MLS Grant – Meeting between Town & Village of Somerset and Town of St. Joseph – Johnson reported on a joint meeting between the three municipalities regarding the *Multi-modal Local Supplement* (MLS) grant available on a one-time basis through WisDOT. Many issues regarding a specific path in addition to details of the grant were discussed. The outcome of the meeting was for the Town of St. Joseph and the Town of Somerset to meet with their engineering representatives to clearly define the path from the Trailhead at the Loop Trail to the Village of Somerset. In addition, a common resolution for each community to have their governing board pass at their next meeting indicating their collaboration was agreed upon. More details to follow before the December 6<sup>th</sup> filing deadline.
2. Maps
  - St. Croix County On-Line Map – This map is currently on hold while Lamers works on several other maps with close deadlines.
  - Beyond the Loop On-Line map and flyers – Documents from Jim Heebink of Pathways were reviewed by Board members. This project is to get rudimentary both on-line and paper brochure maps highlighting trails to use to explore Wisconsin available for trail users by the May 15-16<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Loop Trail opening. The brochure received very positive remarks. Preparation of the map is still underway. Following discussion, a **motion** (Vanasse, Lindstrom) to collaborate with Pathways on the *Beyond the Loop* online map, flyer and signage sharing the cost for the initial iteration up to \$300. **Carried** with no opposition.
  - County Signage Map – Brett Budrow had been at the previous *Beyond the Loop* meeting to discuss the County's placement of signs program currently underway. As it turned out, the *Beyond the Loop* proposed routes were largely on the County's priority list for sign placement. Some amendments to the sign placement were discussed at this meeting. Placement of signage at the Trailheads of the Loop trail was confirmed. More discussion to follow at various meeting but the outcome is a very positive with the County able to provide most of the signage on the *Beyond the Loop* proposed trail routes. Some signs may be placed this fall weather permitting.
3. EDC Grant Program – St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation may have some grant money available soon for entities working on Economic Development issues to apply for funding to support their initiatives. No details available as yet.

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4. Lift and Loop Celebration
  - Minnesota – The Minnesota group continues to work on the big celebration details for the Loop Trail opening celebration scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Many of the details are already in place.
  - Wisconsin – Wisconsin has a committee to support Stillwater’s Friday activities and to provide some activities on the Wisconsin side of the Loop Trail on Saturday morning. The current plans for Wisconsin are around a theme of *active lifestyles*. Details of who will participate and how to manage the large number of people expected for the celebration are still underway.
5. Recommendation for appointment of Janet Lindstrom to the Communications Committee – In response to a recommendation from the Communications Committee, a **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to appoint Janet Lindstrom to the Communications Committee. **Carried** with no opposition.
6. Collaboration with Hudson Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau and St. Croix County EDC – There was a recommendation from the Communications Committee (See Item #7) to collaborate with these two organizations on a summit. See details in **Reports, Communications Committee** above. See Item #7 for actions taken on this recommendation.
7. Bicycle/EDC/Tourism Summit recommendation from Communications Committee – See comments under **Reports, Communications Committee** above. Gherty will do some preliminary detail work and in earnest planning will begin likely in January.
8. Set next meeting date – December 11, 2019 or January 8, 2020 – The **next meeting** was set for **January 8, 2019**.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Bicycle/EDC/Tourism Summit, Fund Raisers, Beyond the Loop, MLS Grant Application(s), County Signage Map, Lift and Loop

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuiser, Secretary