

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors
Town of Somerset Town Hall, August 9, 2018, 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 and on the Coalition web site.

ROLL CALL – Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser, Andrew Lamers, Dave Mandel and Mark Vanasse. Alternate Board member Susan Stepka was also present. Board member Marian Webber was absent as was alternate board member Ruth Steiner. Ben Heuser was also in attendance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Gherty, Kaiser) 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. Susan Heuser reported that a County Board meeting in Polk County at which public comments were accepted regarding whether to keep the Stower Seven Lakes Trail a non-motorized trail was contentious at times but ended up with a 2 to 1 ration of comments in favor of keeping the SSL Trail non-motorized. The Polk County Board will take action on this matter at a later date.

Vanasse reported the acquisition of 117 acres adjacent to Homestead Parklands is about to be completed. The property will be jointly owned by St. Croix County and the Town of St. Joseph.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – May 9, 2018 - A **motion** (Gherty, Lamers) to approve the May, 9, 2018, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors Communications Committee – There was no report because there has been no Committee meeting since the last Board of Directors meeting.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the details of the July financial report indicating that all fund raising moneys received for the Bench Project and the Landing Hill Trail Study, Phase 1, have been disbursed and the moneys currently available are undesignated Coalition funds. Susan Heuser also reported that all government renewals and the insurance premium have been filed and paid.

Healthier Together – Susan Heuser reported the committee is working on materials to present to school districts in Pierce and St. Croix Counties to put wellness policies in place. Stepka indicated she had participated in the creation of a wellness policy at St. Anne’s in Somerset.

In addition, a health/safety related event featuring a bike rodeo, visit with safety organization personnel, healthy food, photo op with Chomp (Health Partners’ mascot), etc. held on July 29th at the Hudson YMCA was attended by ~ 50 kids and parents.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee - There was no report because there has been no Committee meeting since the last Board of Directors meeting.

Bench Project - – Vanasse reported an artist has now been selected for the project, a picnic on August 8th for Houlton Elementary School families to familiarize them with the project was well attended and fund raising efforts will resume as plans become more definite about the exact nature of the “gathering space” during the 2018 - 2019 school year.

Town of Hudson Trail Sign Concerns – Gherty reported on his informational reports to the Town of Hudson Town Board specifically regarding trail directional signs to be placed on roads in the County to allow trail users to follow the network of trails being established county wide. Included were prototype signs from the County.

The Town Board expressed several concerns about placement of those signs in the Town and Gherty referred them to County personnel for further discussion about their concerns.

WisDOT Hwy 35 Update – Johnson led the discussion about WisDOT beginning discussions regarding the update to Hwy 35 scheduled for 2021 with the City of Hudson and the Village of North Hudson. The update will begin at the I-94 Bridge in the City and end at Sommer Street in the Village. The footprint of the road will remain the same but trail accommodations along this portion of the highway as it passes through downtown Hudson through to the north end of the Village are under consideration. A Public Information Meeting is planned in the near future for interested persons.

Others that may be available

Stepka reported on a **Star Prairie Town Board meeting where ATV routes in the Town** were being discussed. An audience of 45 – 50 people heard information from ATV organization officers and also comments from the audience. Action by the Town Board will be taken at a later date.

Johnson reported Coalition members' attendance at a **Town of Somerset planning session** in which updating trail plans was discussed. Coalition members highlighted aspects of the County plan and how various issues could affect the Town planning process.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Landing Hill Trail Study Stage 2 Contract with Warren White – Following discussion about the committee set up to work with Warren White on Stage 2 of the Landing Hill trail study, a **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to appoint André Johnson to represent the Coalition on that committee. **Carried** with no opposition. Because of the importance of this committee, an alternate member to attend meetings was proposed. A **motion** (Lamers, Mandel) to appoint Mark Vanasse as the alternate. **Carried** with no opposition.
2. Fund Raising – Kaiser led the discussion about details of the proposed **raffle fund raiser on September 13th at Barley John's Brewing Company in New Richmond**. The proposed raffle will be different from the 2017 raffle in that no advance tickets sales will be made. Rather all tickets will be sold the evening of the fund raiser and winners must be present to win. Consensus on the Board was to proceed with the event. Further, a **motion** (Vanasse, Lamers) to allot \$300 for prizes at the Barley John's fund raiser. **Carried** with no opposition. The fund raising ad hoc committee will make the final plans for the event.
3. Bicycle Summit – No official information from St. Croix County has been received about this meeting.
4. Contribution to Houlton Community Art Bench Project – after discussion about the importance of being recognized as a part of the community that contributed to this space on the Trail Head across from Houlton Elementary, a **motion** (Mandel, Gherty) to contribute 50% of the profit gained from the Barley John's Fund Raiser to the Art Bench Project at the Trail Head of the Loop Trail. **Carried** with no opposition. Vanasse indicated that other contributions to the Coalition designated for this project would also be accepted.
5. *These items were not considered because there were no recommendations from the Communications Committee to consider due to the lack of a quorum to do business at the Communications Committee.*
Consideration of Recommendations from the Communications Committee – Possibilities Include
 - Changes in Communication Committee Membership and Chairperson
 - Formalized Communications Plan
 - Expand Coalition Membership
 - Establish Funding/Support Stream
 - Press Release Policy Creation
 - Evaluate Community Ed Classes as an Outreach Tool
 - Consider Updating Material for a Speaker's Bureau as an Outreach Tool
 - Promoting Use of Polk County Trails

6. Appointment of Coalition Board Seat Vacated by Tim Witzmann – Consensus was to advertise the open Board Seat and ask people to send a letter of interest to the Coalition about this position.
7. Appointment of Alternate 2 to the Coalition Board – Seat Currently Held by Ruth Steiner – Consensus was to advertise the open Alternate Board Seat and ask people to send a letter of interest to the Coalition about this position.
8. Considerations of Changes to the Coalition’s Standard Operating Procedures – Several matters, including a press release policy and meeting attendance parameters, may require changes to the Coalition’s operating procedures document in the near future.
9. Other Matters That May Occur – The next Board of Directors meeting was set for **September 13, 2018, at 5 p.m. at Barley John’s Brewing Company**. No other matters were proposed for discussion.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Availability of Open Board of Directors and Alternate Seats and Possible Election of Same, Election of Vice-Chairperson, Bicycle Summit, Changes to Standard Operating Procedures Document, Possible Recommendations from the Communications Committee

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – None were proposed.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuser, Trails Coalition Secretary