

**MINUTES Trail Coalition Board of Directors  
Town of Somerset Town Hall, April 12, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** – David Mandel, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:32 p.m.

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

**ROLL CALL** - Board members present were Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Andrew Lamers, David Mandel, Mark Vanasse, and Tim Witzmann. Mark Gherty and Marian Webber were absent. Also present were Ben Heuser, Ruth Steiner and Susan Stepka.

**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. There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – March 6, 2017 – A **motion** (Johnson, Lamers) to approve the March 6, 2017 minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors  
**Communications Committee** – Witzmann, Committee Chairperson, indicated that Committee items were on the agenda and deferred to that discussion. The **next meeting date** was decided on – **May 1, 2017**.

**Financial Report** – Vanasse, Treasurer, discussed the March financial report indicating no expenditures and one bank charge – essentially almost no change from the February report.

**Healthier Together** – Susan Heuser reported on the larger Healthier Together initiative getting organized into a number of standing committee moving forward into the next 3 years led by St. Croix and Pierce county hospitals. Johnson reported on the progress specific to the Somerset Middle School **Bike to School Day on May 10th**, a part of the two county effort to implement this program in both counties' school districts. He indicated help was needed in the before school hours on the day of the Bike Ride. Several people indicated they would be there. Consensus from the Board was that the Coalition should provide 6 helmets for raffle at the event and would seek a donation from the Somerset Lions Club to help fund the helmet donation.

**Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee** – Johnson updated the Board on the April 11<sup>th</sup> discussion that took place at this Committee meeting where each community updated activity since the last meeting. St. Croix County's updated Bike & Ped Plan proposal was also discussed.

**Bench Project** – Vanasse detailed the discussions underway with St. Croix County about inclusion of an Art Bench project into the Trail Head facility located across from Houlton Elementary School. The organizations working on this project include Houlton Elementary School and the Phipps Center for the Arts as lead organizers with the Town of St. Joseph Park Committee and the Trail Coalition as supporting organizations.

**Others that may be available** – Vanasse led a lengthy discussion about the Landing Hill portion of the Bike & Ped Plan update – specifically, the necessity to decide on which side (north & east – Rivard Stone side OR south & west – golf course side) of the road (STH 64) the off road trail should be located, the need to work in co-operation with the Town of Somerset on a solution to this issue, how best to approach making this decision, the need to include the County in whatever action might be taken, etc. General consensus was for a smaller group of Board members (Susan Heuser, Johnson, Vanasse and Witzmann) to meet as an ad hoc committee to further discuss solutions and bring options forward for consideration by the Board, perhaps at the May meeting.

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**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

**1. Annual Meeting**

- Approval of Hwy 64 Trail Corridor and Communications Committee White Paper – A **motion** (Johnson, Witzmann) to approve the white papers for both the Communications and Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committees as submitted. **Carried** with no opposition.
- Approval of the 2017 Annual Report for 2016 – A **motion** (Mandel, Vanasse) to approve the *2017 Annual Report for 2016* as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.
- Election of Board of Director Seats – Susan Heuser reviewed the by-law dictates for election of Board members at the Annual Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> followed by election of officers for the coming year at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Two people have indicated an interest in the remaining 2 years of the empty seat on the Board – Pam Kaiser and Ruth Steiner. Other seats to be elected are the positions held by Mark Gherty, Andrew Lamers and Dave Mandel.
- Other Agenda Items – Board members will forward other agenda items they may be interested in discussing before the agenda for the meeting is published.
- Details – Specific details about the gathering on April 29<sup>th</sup> were discussed and decided.

**2. Outreach Effort Responsibilities**

- Somerset Pea Soup Days – June 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> – Mark Vanasse will lead this effort.
- Somerset Library Event – currently undetermined – Consensus was to wait for contact from the Somerset Library regarding programming initiatives they might be interested in assistance with.
- Hudson’s RiverFest – July 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> with July 20<sup>th</sup> the nonprofit event – Initial planning meetings are underway. Mark Gherty has been the Coalition representative to this organizing group in the past.
- New Richmond’s National Night Out – August 1<sup>st</sup> - currently undetermined – Plans remain in flux at the City. Lamers will lead this effort if it occurs and will keep the Coalition updated as plans are finalized. Lamers also suggested that other communities might hold this same kind of event since it is a national movement and that the Coalition might look at other appropriate locations to participate in.
- Baldwin’s Chile Cook Off – Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Witzmann tentatively indicated he would lead this effort.

**3. Creation of Alternate Positions for Board of Directors** – A draft of the Coalition By-Law changes that would be required to implement having Alternates to the Board seated with voting rights in any Board member’s absence was reviewed and discussed. A **motion** (Lamers, Johnson) to make the proposed changes to the Coalition By-Laws regarding Alternate positions for the Board of Directors. **Carried** with no opposition.

**4. St. Croix County’s DRAFT Bike & Ped Plan Update** – Time constraints did not allow for a full discussion of this topic. It will be placed on the May agenda.

- Coalition Participation after the Updated Plan is approved by the County Board – Susan Heuser led the discussion about the County’s plans for moving forward once the updated Bike & Ped Plan is passed by the County Board – specifically the Coalition’s participation in publication of a quarterly newsletter about trails and related topics and an annual or semi-annual Summit gathering of organizations and persons interested in implementing the proposed plan. General consensus was that the Coalition can participate in ways that are in accordance with the dictates of its nonprofit status – specifically to research and gather information for disbursement, to participate in activities related to those two actions but not to advocate for any particular action, rather leaving decisions to the appropriate organizations. More details to follow as the County moves ahead into the implementation phase of the updated plan.

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5. **ATV/UTV Shared Trail Use with Bicycles Issues** - Time constraints did not allow for a full discussion of this topic. It will be placed on the May agenda.
6. **Fund Raising Initiatives** – Vanasse briefly discussed a fund raising event at Oliphant Brewing in late September or early October. He will bring specific details and other proposals to the May Board meeting.
7. **Set next meeting date – May 10, 2017 or another date** – The **next meeting** was set for **May 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** - St. Croix County's DRAFT Bike & Ped Plan Update, ATV/UTV Shared Trail Use with Bicycles Issues, Fund Raising Initiatives

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA** – Election of Board members

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Vanasse, Lamers) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuser, Secretary