

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Pedestrian Trail Coalition Communication Committee
Hudson Library, 700 First Street, Hudson, Wisconsin – February 29, 2016, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER – Mark Vanasse called the meeting to order at ~6:35 p.m. in Chairperson Tim Witzmann’s absence.

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

ROLL CALL – Committee members present were Mark Gherty, Ben & Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Andrew Lamers and Mark Vanasse. Tim Witzmann was absent. Also present were Michelle Baillargeon, Mitch Lewis and Kevin Wood.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Ben Heuser, Johnson) 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. Baillargeon asked whether St. Croix County’s Bike & Ped Plan update included plans for a trail through the Village of Somerset. As a business owner in the Village, she wondered where she could comment on her desire to have a trail through the village. Johnson detailed what is understood about the current Village plan. Vanasse responded that she should certainly be talking to the Village Board about the Village trail plan but also should be sending her comments to St. Croix County staff and contractors as the county trail plan update proceeds. During the ensuing discussion it was determined that Baillargeon and Lewis would be interested in attending Village Board meetings as trail advocates and, in addition, interested in acting as a liaison to the Coalition. It was agreed the Coalition will send an invitation to Baillargeon and Lewis asking them to join the Coalition as a liaison to the Village of Somerset and, accordingly, copy Village officials regarding same.

Wood asked about implementation for the updated plan with committee members noting the implementation portion of the updated county plan though no draft or detailed information is available at the current time.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – February 1, 2016 – A **motion** (Ben Heuser, Johnson) to approve the minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from individuals about information gathered for the subcommittee

Vanasse led the discussion about the Hwy 64 corridor meeting held on February 24, 2016, with particular interest in whether and how to proceed with the discussion that began at that meeting. Emphasis of the committee discussion revolved around the importance of agreement between municipalities’ plans with the updated county plan. It was noted that, in general, the plans agreed but that there were some particular points that needed further attention. A model the Coalition uses to conduct business was discussed – specifically creating a subcommittee with a detailed charter to study a particular issue. There was general agreement that, if this particular subcommittee were to be successful, the Hwy 64 corridor communities would need to be active, participating members. Susan Heuser will draw up a preliminary charter for review by various entities. After suggestions from all concerned and if there is enough interest expressed in such an organization, Hwy 64 corridor municipalities and relevant organizations may then be asked to review the charter and appoint a member(s) to the committee.

Gherty reported that the Vine Street improvement in the City of Hudson will not include trail markings after all as the reconstruction is done because of last minute snags encountered. However, the 2016 street construction project will allow for trail designations at a later date when details are worked out.

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ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. St. Croix Count Bike & Ped Plan Update Progress – Lamers reported contact with county staff regarding some specifics of the City’s trail plans following the February 24th Hwy 64 corridor meeting. There were no other updates noted.
2. Future Outreach Activities – There was general discussion about a number of possibilities for outreach as follows.
 - a) Outreach at community events was discussed. Lead people will be determined for specific events at the next meeting.
 - b) General consensus was for the Coalition to remain as support workers for other bike rides as needed by sponsoring organizations.
 - c) Raffling a quality bicycle was discussed as a potential fund raiser. Baillargeon will check with vendors to see what options might be available. Gherty noted from his experience with similar fund raisers that a boost in sales is likely to occur if a designated charity/project is chosen for receipt of the fund raising proceeds.
 - d) A gathering in the fall with a speaker related to trails and how to foster, build and manage them was suggested as a gathering in conjunction with the proposed raffle drawing.
 - e) Vanasse and Johnson will take the lead for the Coalition on a summer bike ride sponsored by the Somerset Library with River Valley Sports looking into possibilities of a participation award for each attendee.
 - f) Details about a Healthier Together county wide Bike to School Day on May 4th will follow shortly as they are known.
3. Set next meeting date – The next meeting was set for **April 4, 2016**.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Hwy 64 Corridor Committee Charter, Recommendations Regarding Community Outreach Activities, Recommendations Regarding Proposed Raffle

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – None identified at this time.

ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA – Hwy 64 Corridor Committee Charter, Community Outreach Opportunities Lead People, Purpose and Designated Organization(s) for Proposed Raffle Proceeds

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Lamers, Gherty) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuiser, Secretary