

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors  
Town of Somerset Town Hall, March 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Andrew Lamers, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the absence of Chairperson, André Johnson.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE** – Lamers stated the agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall and on the Coalition’s web site.

**ROLL CALL** - Board members present were Mark Gherty (after ~7:30 p.m.), Susan Heuser, Pam Kaiser, Andrew Lamers, Dave Mandel, Mark Vanasse and Tim Witzmann. Board members André Johnson and Marian Webber were absent. Alternates Susan Stepka and Ruth Steiner were also present. Others present were Ben Heuser, Larry Rausch (until ~7:30 p.m.), Ed Schachtner and Warren White.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Witzmann, Vanasse) to adopt the agenda with an amendment to place Item # 1 ahead of PUBLIC COMMENT, APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES, and REPORTS. **Carried** with no opposition.

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

1. Landing Hill Study Details and Possible Next Steps

Warren White presented information about the work he has been doing regarding an off road trail in the Landing Hill area of Hwy 64 between County Road V and VV. He had information about both the Rivard Stone and the St. Croix National Golf and Event Center sides of Hwy 64. He presented slides showing slope contours, WisDOT Right of Way (ROW) delineations, trail possibilities, and reviewed problem areas as well as optimum locations. Some points he made follow.

- His analysis is based on three criteria – 1)Safety, 2)User Experience, and 3)Cost.
- ROW requirements have changed over the course of time he has been communicating with WisDOT - precisely allowing trails in areas that formerly were not acceptable to WisDOT.
- Distance minimums for trails from Hwy 64, a designated freeway, were defined.
- Slope requirements were discussed in relation to a proposed trail line – some being quite steep in WisDOT ROW. Rest areas along the trail were discussed to provide a stopping place as riders travel the trail.
- WisDOT will require an acceptable argument be presented in order to allow retaining walls along the trail. The length of those walls and potential costs were discussed.
- Where bicyclists will be able to get from any trail section to the Hwy 64 road surface, fencing will be required by WisDOT to keep trail users off the highway. Details regarding the mixture of fencing and retaining walls were discussed.
- Guard rails along the trail corridor highway cannot be considered as a trail safety item per WisDOT current guidelines. Studies indicate guard rails present a danger for drivers.
- How the proposed trail would enter/exit at both County V and VV was discussed.
- A spreadsheet that determined the cost estimates was presented in full detail.

A preliminary conclusion following all the details presented seemed to indicate the St. Croix National Golf and Event Center side of Hwy 64 offered the most optimum choices for a trail that met the criteria set out in the first bullet, with consensus among the attendees agreeing with that assessment. A meeting was set for April 11<sup>th</sup> where White will present his findings to all interested organizations and parties before a final decision regarding which side to pursue in Stage 2 of the Landing Hill study is made.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. There was no public comment.

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**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – February 28, 2018 – A **motion** (Witzmann, Mandel) to approve the February 28, 2018, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors  
Communications Committee – Witzmann reported the Communications Committee will meet on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and will have a report at the April Board of Directors meeting.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the February expenditures and receipts. There were no questions

Healthier Together – Susan Heuser reported the Healthier Together Committee will meet March 19<sup>th</sup> and is working on the two county wide *Bike to School Day* set for May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – The Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee will likely meet in April after the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the Landing Hill trails study and have a report in May.

Bench Project – Vanasse reported on fundraising efforts for the Art Bench project to be located on the Trailhead of the Loop Trail. The Coalition is working with a team of members from the Phipps Center for the Arts, Houlton Elementary School and its PTA and the St. Croix Valley Foundation to raise funds for this project. As the project develops additional local resources will be a part of the contributions that create this public work of art. Vanasse also reported work connecting Houlton Elementary with a member of the County Community Development Committee to enable communications between the school and construction organizations as the Trailhead is constructed in 2018.

Others that may be available

First, Susan Heuser led the discussion regarding *give BIG SCV* in Johnson’s absence. This project is a United Way based online fund raising tool for designated communities in the St. Croix Valley - of which Somerset is one. Details about how this one day online giving tool works, actions needed by the Coalition to participate and costs to the Coalition were discussed. General consensus was that, because the project is already underway this year, the Coalition might not have completed the necessary preparation to be successful. There was interest in getting more details regarding participation in the yearly event.

Second, Gherty reported on a Public Information Meeting he had attended just prior to this Coalition meeting in the Town of Hudson regarding a road project to widen and improve the sight distances on McCutcheon Road from County Road A west to Daily Road, approximately a mile and a half in length. The plans include a four foot wide on road marked trail on each side of the road surface. Gherty reported strong support from citizens at the meeting with residents along the proposed road work Right of Way completing all the necessary details at the meeting to allow the project to move forward. The County Transportation Department will begin this project as soon as conditions allow in April.

Third, Vanasse reported on a meeting with Western Wisconsin Health regarding trail plans in the Baldwin area. The hospital has plans that include trails on their 100 acre site and is interested in getting trails from the Village of Baldwin connecting south to the hospital campus. Hospital staff will begin the needed preparations and include the Coalition as they may need assistance.

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action (continued)

2. Helmet Donations – General Policy and Bike to School Day – Authorization for future expenditure – A general policy regarding donation of bike helmets as well a specific discussion of helmet donation on Bike to School Day were not discussed because of time constraints. They will be discussed at a following meeting. However, a **motion** (Witzmann, Vanasse) to spend not more than \$220 for a helmet order. **Carried** with no opposition.

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3. Outreach Efforts

First, Gherty reported on the Community Ed classes he will teach on a number of interesting and informative topics related to bicycling. The Hudson class will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> followed by the New Richmond class on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Second, Witzmann reported on a meeting that he, Gherty and Susan Heuser attended regarding a proposed *bicycle summit* the County is planning according to dictates in the St. Croix Bike & Ped Plan. Details for two meetings were discussed – first, a May 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of bicycle advocacy groups and key County and municipal personnel to share information about what projects currently planned or underway are located. The goal for this meeting is to have a coordinated approach to trail planning moving forward. Then, a *bicycle summit* inviting a wide, diverse cross section of St. Croix County governmental officials and staff as well as trail advocates and interested people to attend an informational program event as well as discussion among attendees about trail possibilities moving forward. That event is planned for October 13th. More details will be forthcoming.

4. Annual Meeting Details - Susan Heuser reported having difficulty finding a park facility with all its amenities open for the April 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting date. Further suggestions were made about possible locations. Susan Heuser will make the contacts with the suggested entities.

5. Set next meeting date – April 11, 2018 – The **next meeting** date was set for **April 11, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.**

6. Other Items As Available – No other items were discussed.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Landing Hill Trails Project, Helmet Donations – General Policy and Bike to School Day, Authorization to Pay Yearly Liability Insurance Fee, Outreach Efforts, Annual Meeting Details

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA** – Annual Meeting and Election of Three Board of Directors seats.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuser, Secretary