

**MINUTES JOINT MEETING St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition
Board of Directors and Highway 64 Corridor Committee
Town of Somerset Town Hall, February 28, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER – André Johnson, Board of Directors Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:35 p.m.
Susan Heuiser, Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:35 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL – Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuiser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser, Andrew Lamers, Dave Mandel and Marian Webber. Board members Mark Vanasse and Tim Witzmann were absent. Alternates Susan Stepka was present. Alternate Ruth Steiner was absent. Also present were Ben Heuiser and Jim Webber.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor members present were Susan Heuiser, André Johnson, Kyle Lindstrom, Jim Pierson and Jim Remington. Hwy 64 Corridor members absent were Tim Witzmann and Ryan Sicard.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - For the Board of Directors - A **motion** (Gherty, Lamers) to adopt the agenda as presented. **Carried** with no opposition. For the Hwy 64 Trails Corridor Committee – A **motion** (Johnson, 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. Gherty detailed a discussion with City of Hudson staff about a 15-20 year plan under consideration by the City to update the Lakefront Park area of the City and to extend the update along a trail to the north of the park where a trailhead is planned. In addition, the Bike Advisory Committee has been reconvened to add to the discussions and considerations. More details to follow as they are available.

Kaiser reported on a Community Action Plan event in New Richmond that she attended. This vision for New Richmond included many areas and certainly trail locations information and safe crossing considerations were a large part of the event she visited. She connected with people who were interested in working with the Coalition and follow up will occur over the next months.

Marian Webber indicated River Valley Trails had been approached by Pierce County about a bike education program.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – January 10, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting - a **motion** (Gherty, Lamers) to approve the January 10, 2018, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.
September 13, 2017 Highway 64 Corridor Committee Meeting – a **motion** (Johnson, Remington) to approve the September 13, 2017, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Progress of Hwy 64 Landing Hill Phase 1 Study and Possible Next Steps

Ben Heuiser, Johnson, (both Coalition members) and Rauch and Schachtner (both Town of Somerset Town Board members) led the discussion about a meeting they had attended with Warren White and WisDOT staff at their Eau Claire facility regarding the ongoing study led by White for an off road trail along the Landing Hill portion of State Highway 64 between County Roads V and VV. A summary of some of the information received follows.

INFORMATION from TOWN of SOMERSET and ST. CROIX COUNTY

- If a trail between the Loop Trail and Somerset were to be on Town of Somerset roads, the trail would be ~ 6 miles longer than one along the Highway 64 Right of Way (ROW) and would be for experienced

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riders only. The Town is hopeful an off road trail to bring recreational riders into Somerset and on to New Richmond will be possible.

- Town of Somerset will shortly begin updating its trail plan to bring it into alignment with the County's plan.
- County has allocated \$7500 for Phase 2 of this study contingent on matching funds from the Town of Somerset. The Somerset Town Board will take up the issue of matching funds soon.

INFORMATION from WisDOT

- All WisDOT employees in attendance were very supportive of the project indicating assistance available as the project proceeds.
- The Landing Hill section of Hwy 64 is a designated freeway with all its accompanying requirements. The Legal Department at WisDOT sees opportunities for a trail in Wisdot ROW along Highway 64 indicating there may be precedent for trails in the WisDOT ROW of a freeway in the state that would allow a trail along WisDOT ROW at Landing Hill.
- A "clear zone" for trails along freeways is 42 or 48 feet from the edge of the pavement. A fence separating the trail and the road is required if bicyclists can get to the road. That fence would be similar to the one along the Loop Trail on Highway 64. In addition, WisDOT very strongly recommends a design without retaining walls. Lastly there can be issues with guardrails along the Highway that need to be defined.
- A cattle/deer crossing was discussed as a bicycle tunnel. If such a crossing exists, WisDOT indicated it would NOT meet ADA requirements so couldn't be used as part of the trail.
- A detailed discussion about slopes and drainage was held because of the steep nature of the terrain along Landing Hill. The topography of the area also generated discussion regarding ADA requirements along this route. WisDOT will be in touch with White about the exact nature of those requirements as plans are finalized.
- Trails on WisDOT ROW are for non-motorized vehicles ONLY. In addition, maintenance agreements for trails on WisDOT ROW will be only with the County or the Town.
- If excess ROW is need to complete trail plans, a deed agreement from WisDOT to either the Town or County would likely present no issues.
- It is important for any grant applications to WisDOT to indicate connections to adjacent counties.
- Both the bridges over CTH V and CTH VV are wide enough to accommodate a trail on the bridge.
- Preliminarily it looks as if the St. Croix National Golf Course side of the freeway will be the most advantageous route to pursue an off road trail.

Questions were asked by both the Board and Committee members with details as presently known being discussed. Current general consensus is to have a meeting completely focused on White's report and outside of either a Coalition of Town Board meeting.

CONCLUSION: Warren White will assimilate the new information from WisDOT into his recommendations and present a final report with details to the Coalition in a month or so.

A **motion** (Remington, Johnson) to adjourn the Highway 64 Trail Corridor Committee meeting. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 7:20 p.m.

A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING

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Board of Directors meeting resumed at ~ 7:30 p.m.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Communications Committee – The Communications Committee had not met since January so there was no report.

Financial Report – Details of the January Financial Report were discussed. No questions were raised.

Healthier Together – Susan Heuser reported work on *Bike to School Day* to be held on May 9th. Schools in the two county area of Pierce and St. Croix Counties are receiving a marketing handout and a Toolkit to be used by schools to implement some curriculum around the health and safety aspects of biking and to create a celebratory day of physical activity.

Bench Project – Susan Heuser reported on the team that is working on putting a “gathering space” bench as a part of the larger Art Bench Trail on the Trailhead of the Loop Trail across from Houlton Elementary School. The organizations involved are the Phipps Center for the Arts and its supporting organizations – the St. Croix Valley Foundation and the National Park Service, Houlton Elementary School and its PTA, and the Trails Coalition. The core group is working in cooperation with St. Croix County that will manage the Trailhead once construction is complete and other area businesses and individuals as the project design and construction is completed. Heuser also reported that 4 grant applications have been filed with several more under consideration to raise funds for this project.

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

ITEMS for discussion and/or action (continued)

2. 2018 Budget Approval – After discussion of budget details, a **motion** (Marian Webber, Johnson) to approve the 2018 budget as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.
3. Annual Filings Update – Susan Heuser detailed the three annual filings that have been submitted to various reporting agencies and the three more that are due in the ensuing months. General consensus on the Board that Raffle Licenses A and B should both be renewed when the regulations prescribe.
4. Fund Raising Efforts – See fund raising efforts for the bench project above in reports. In addition, a possible fund raiser in Baldwin to facilitate trail implementation in the area is under consideration. A meeting with Baldwin Hospital personnel on March 1st will determine how that fund raiser proceeds. A fund raiser in the New Richmond area is also under consideration with a possible late summer date.
5. Outreach Efforts – First, plans are underway for a Bike & Ped Summit led by St. Croix County. A county wide committee of interested persons is being organized to define this first of what may become an annual summit.
Then, Gherty is registered in both the Hudson and New Richmond Community Ed brochures to teach a single evening bicycling informational class during April. Trail Coalition members will assist as needed.
6. Bike to School Day Possible Contributions – Healthier Together will again provide reflectors for all student participants in this event. There was brief discussion about possible contributions from the Trail Coalition of helmets to the Somerset Middle School.
7. Annual Meeting Planning – April 28, 2018
 - Place – Several park locations in the Hudson area were discussed as possibilities for this meeting. Susan Heuser will get information back to the Board.

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- Time and Format - A morning potluck brunch gathering followed by a brief meeting of Trail Coalition members was the format agreed upon. A bicycle ride for those interested will follow as weather and conditions permits.
 - Election of Board Members – Seats currently held by Susan Heuser, André Johnson and Mark Vanasse are open for nominations and election to a three year seat on the Coalition Board of Directors.
8. Mission Statement/Goals and Objectives – After a brief discussion, general consensus was to send this document to the Communications Committee for discussion and update recommendations to the Board at its May meeting.
 9. Other items as available – No other items were presented for consideration.
 10. Set next meeting dates – **Board of Directors** – March 14, 2018 - Next meeting was set for **March 14, 2018** at the Town of Somerset Town Hall. **Highway 64 Corridor Committee** did not set a next formal meeting date opting rather to attend the meeting at which the information regarding Landing Hill trail recommendations are discussed.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Landing Hill Study Details, Annual Meeting Details, Helmet Donations – General Policy and Bike to School Day – Authorization for future expenditure, Outreach Efforts

ITEMS FOR NEXT HIGHWAY 64 CORRIDOR COMMITTEE AGENDA – Landing Hill Study Details

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

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Lamers, Mandel) to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Heuser, Board of Directors Secretary, Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee Chairperson