

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors
Town of Somerset Town Hall, February 26, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

ROLL CALL - Board members present were Mark Gherty (after 7:00 p.m.), Susan Heuiser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser, Andrew Lamers, David Mandel and Mark Vanasse in addition to alternate Brandi Popenhagen. Board member Kyle Lindstrom was absent. Ben Heuiser and Janet Lindstrom were also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - A **motion** (Lamers, Vanasse) to approve 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. Vanasse indicated the Somerset Library would reopen the week of March 2nd and the library portion of the building will be in the new addition.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – January 8, 2020 - A **motion** (Vanasse, Mandel) to approve the January 7, 2020, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Communications Committee – Gherty detailed his trip to the Wisconsin Legislature for Legislative Day on February 12, 2020. He talked to area elected officials and a member of the Joint Finance Committee about several issues but economic tourism issues in particular as they relate to trails. His reception was a positive one with several area representatives indicating strong interest in the topic.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the February financial report indicating the majority of the funds at hand are allocated for Coalition projects leaving little in reserve to support Coalition operations. Several ideas for fund raisers are noted in Item #5.

Lift and Loop – Susan Heuiser indicated a WI Lift and Loop the following evening would be concentrating on maps created by St. Croix Community Development staff trying to finalize details so the map can be available for use by the larger committee. She reported there is still a lot to do for plans to be completed on the Wisconsin side of the Loop Trail.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Susan Heuiser reported this committee will meet March 9, 2020, and hopefully be discussing the results of the WisDOT MLS grant applications along the corridor and in other places within the County.

Pathway – Susan Heuiser reported there were lots of items on a 2019 report of projects in the New Richmond area. The group is actively pursuing a number of outdoor recreation projects.

Beyond the Loop – Susan Heuiser reported the discussion about the trail map/brochure proposal the group has been working on since late summer of 2019 and its costs. A representative of Minute Man Press was present at the last meeting on February 24th to answer any questions that might arise. The shared funding between Pathway and the Coalition was enough to place an order for 1000 in color map/brochures. Printing will be done before the April 2nd Summit (See Item #1). A decision about metal signs for the two trailheads on the Loop Trail was postponed for the moment pending discussions with St. Croix County Highway and Community Departments to finalize placement details.

UP RR Property – Gherty reported a looming deadline of March 16th to transfer the right of first refusal to a possible third party to gain more time to find a solution for purchase of the property. Several obstacles still to be overcome but active plans in place to pursue that purchase.

Bayport Recreation Area – Susan Heuiser had map details of the Bayport Recreations Area, a joint project of multiple governmental agencies in Minnesota, to build a public space between Xcel's King Plant and Andersen Windows. Spaces include park, conservation areas, trails and a boat launch. A good example of how working together can create exceptional public spaces.

Others that may be available – Gherty had attended the last WisDOT Public Information Meeting regarding the state highway 35 improvement scheduled for construction during the summer of 2021. The project will be completed in 4 sections plus 1 intersection update – as follows. 1) Front Street to Vine Street in the City of Hudson, 2) the Coulee intersection is contained within that portion of the project, 3) Vine Street to Willow River in the City of Hudson, 4) Lake Mallalieu Bridge to Sommers Street in the Village of North Hudson, 5) Sommers Street to North End Road in Village of North Hudson. Several major issues still remain to be solved and major traffic congestion is expected. Final plans are expected to be completed by May 2020.

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ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Bicycle/Tourism/EDC Summit April 2, 2020 – Susan Heuser detailed plans in place for this summit. *Save the Date* invitations are out, invitations with details will go out in the first week or so of March, speakers are lined up and the committee is looking forward to a dynamic meeting.
2. Bike Rack Initiative – Details and Timing – Johnson is in touch with the WITC welding teacher and New Richmond powder coating business and ready to order steel so the racks can be created. Having the racks ready for spring installation is the goal.
3. Lift and Loop Celebration -
 - MN – The larger overall committee for this celebration is moving quickly toward finalizing the marketing information to the general public. There will be several opportunities for the general public to sign up for the various activities on both Friday afternoon/evening and Saturday, May 15th and 16th.
 - WI – See **Reports, Lift and Loop**
 - Request to Accept/Disburse Donations for Funds Raised for Lift and Loop WI – Tim Witzmann has requested that the Coalition be the depository for funds raised in Wisconsin for the Lift and Loop celebration. Witzmann was not present at the meeting to provide specific details. Concerns were expressed by various Board members about several aspects of this request and the effect it might have on the Coalition’s required financial reporting. Susan Heuser will contact Witzmann detailing the more information that was requested. The Board agreed that, if necessary and with the requested information, the Board could vote on approval electronically before the next Board meeting.
4. Beyond the Loop – After discussion (See **Reports Beyond the Loop**), a **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to spend up to \$200 to work with Pathway on the sign issue. **Carried** with no opposition.
5. Fund Raiser(s) – Vanasse discussed several different fund raiser options.
 - giveBIG – General consensus on the Board was that the expenses of this program didn’t support the Coalition’s involvement at this time.
 - Others – Other options discussed are listed below.
 - i. A low impact fund raiser at Oliphant Brewing in Somerset managed by Somerset non-Board members in early May. Vanasse will arrange the details.
 - ii. A gathering in at a Roberts brewery. Popenhagen will check on details.
 - iii. A fund raiser at a Hudson brewery to benefit the UP Railroad property acquisition. More details about that acquisition are needed before this event is ready for planning.
6. MLS Grant Applications – WisDOT MLS grant awards are schedule to be announced the end of February early part of March. *[Following this meeting, the grant awards were made on March 4th. It appears that St. Croix County got one MLS award in Woodville for a road project. No bike/ped grant applications from St. Croix County were awarded.]*
7. Web Site Changes/Expenditures – Susan Heuser detailed the messages from GoDaddy about the web site. The current platform is an old one which is going to cost more money to maintain over the next 3 years. The options present were 1) stay with the current platform at an increased cost, 2) change to a newer platform as a DIY project and 3) pay GoDaddy a fee to create a new platform on WordPress. After discussion, Johnson will check with Somerset HS to see whether a particularly capable student in the computer classes could take this on as a project.
8. Annual Meeting Details – Consensus was to set the details for the meeting as indicated below. Susan Heuser will make the reservation, etc. to get the meeting organized.
 - Date – April 25, 2020
 - Place – Glover Park in Troy
 - White Papers – Communication and Hwy 64 Corridor Committees and Coalition – Susan Heuser will create these documents.
 - Other Details – Potluck Brunch mid-morning followed by Annual Meeting and election of Board seats held by Gherty, Lamers and Mandel.
9. Authorization for Insurance Payment – Susan Heuser reported insurance premium amounts will not be available until approximately mid-March. In the interim, the Board discussed particulars of the coverage.

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10. Authorization to Rejoin Hudson Chamber – Gherty thought the date to rejoin was in the spring. No action taken.
11. Other – There were no other items presented for discussion.
12. Set next meeting date – March 11, 2020 or April 8, 2020 – The **next meeting** was set for **March 25, 2020**.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA - Bicycle/Tourism/EDC Summit April 2, 2020, Bike Rack Initiative – Details and Timing, Lift and Loop Celebration, Beyond the Loop, Fund Raisers, MLS Grant Applications, Web Site Changes/Expenditures, Annual Meeting Details, Authorization for Insurance Payment, Authorization to Rejoin Hudson Chamber

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuser, Secretary