

# MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors

January 11, 2023, 6:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

*Items in Italics were added after distribution of the Agenda*

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mark Vanasse, Chairperson, called the meeting together at ~ 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** - Board members present were Mark Gherty Susan Heuser, Pam Kaiser, Kyle Lindstrom, Paul McGinnis and Mark Vanasse. Board member Dave Mandel was absent. Ben Heuser, Janet Lindstrom and Tim Witzmann were also present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Gherty, Kyle Lindstrom) 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. McGinnis noted the award to the Town of Troy for a bicycle repair station and shelter from the Hudson Hospital Foundation. The shelter will also contain a map of the Town’s trail system. The grant is likely large enough to cover the entire cost of the project that will be built in the spring of 2023 in Glover Park. He noted that similar grants would be available for other communities from, as an example, Westfield Hospital in its area of service.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – November 9, 2022 - A **motion** (Gherty, Kaiser) to approve the November 9, 2022, minutes. McGinnis abstained. **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors Communications Committee – Witzmann reported the Committee’s discussion at its January 9, 2023, meeting as follows

1. Assistance for the Town of Somerset to construct a Frisbee Golf facility at Parnell Prairie - Witzmann will consult with the Town about details.
2. Coordinating events/initiatives with the River Valley Trails (RVT) organization – No contact has been made with RVT to date. Suggestions from the Board included creating alliances with other trail related organizations, for example, the County’s snow mobile organization, to work cooperatively on trail issues.
3. The need for more members and events for people to work on– The Coalition has contributed to many initiatives since its inception. Perhaps more members would allow for more events to be considered.
4. How to deal with the issue of E-bikes on trails – With the rapidly growing increase E-bike usage, perhaps the Coalition could join with other trail groups to determine how best to handle any issues that may develop.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the final 2022 Financial Report. There were no questions. The Report was the end of year report for 2022 so was approved (see Item #1) for inclusion in the 2022 Annual Report.

Healthier Together –McGinnis reported that the focus of the group continues to be largely mental health. The Library Backpack program continues with star charts and park passes being included in the New Year. There continues to be active usage of these backpacks.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Susan Heuser reported there had not been a meeting of the Committee since the last Coalition meeting.

Pathways – Susan Heuser reported that the City of New Richmond did considerable preparation this fall for the trail along County Road A from Richmond Way to Business 64 to be ready for an early spring start to the trail that will be built in the spring of 2023. Also, the new bridge St. Croix County will construct on CTH K on the east side of the City has an elevated trail as a part of the bridge.

Beyond the Loop - Susan Heuser reported that the Loop Trail will be plowed again this winter by the City of Stillwater but perhaps not as quickly as in the year before. In addition, the BTL sign changes that need to be made were not made in the fall but hopefully will be installed in the spring.

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Others that may be available – There were no other Reports.

### ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Approval of the 2022 Financial Report – A **motion** (Kyle Lindstrom, Gherty) to approve the 2022 Financial Report. **Carried** with no opposition.
2. Economic Tourism Event – Gherty added to the report from the January 9, 2023, Communications Committee meeting on this topic as follows
  - This joint effort of the St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation, St. Croix County, Hudson Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau and the Trails Coalition will emphasize the benefits tourism spending to local areas, and
  - Highlight St. Croix County's work in particular toward outdoor recreations projects, and
  - Detailed the multiple avenues of invitations to businesses, governments and other organizations that could benefit from future initiatives.
  - In addition, several Board members signed up to assist with preparations the day of the event.
3. Outreach Long and Short Term – Communications Committee Report – There was general discussion about what a refocus of the Coalitions Goals and Objectives might look like. The Mission Statement was reviewed in detail. It was noted that it was broad enough to encompass many different kinds of initiatives over the years.
  - Message – Gherty referred to the existing informational flyer created several years ago. It follows the elements of the Mission Statement to shows the diversity of involvement the Coalition has had to date and would need to be recreated if the Mission Statement were changed. Discussion about where and how to use those materials followed but no conclusions were reached..
  - Locations and Audiences – Discussion led to a general consensus that what the message is would determine which organizations and locations would be included in future outreach.
  - Universal Power Point – General agreement that a standard *Power Point* should be created that any member could take to a speaking engagement or event to use. The general *Power Point* might be large enough to edit to use only portions of it depending on the audience. The goal is to get a 15-20 minute presentation ready to go quickly that contains a consistent and accurate message.
  - Assistance for the Town of Somerset to construct a Frisbee Golf facility at Parnell Prairie – See discussion under Communications Committee Report above.
  - Coordinating events/initiatives with the River Valley Trails organization - See discussion under Communications Committee Report above.
  - The need for more members and events for people to work on - See discussion under Communications Committee Report above.
  - How to deal with the issue of E-bikes on trails - . See discussion under Communications Committee Report above.
4. Economic Summit – See discussion in Item # 2
  - Hudson Spring Expo – The Expo is scheduled for Sunday, May 7, 2023. General consensus among members at the event in 2022 agreed that it was a very worthwhile outreach experience. Heuser will get the registration form when the ChambeEcr makes it available.
  - Speaking Engagement Details - See discussion in Item #3 second bullet.
5. UP RR Trestle Project – Gherty reported good communications are happening between the stakeholders and their representatives with positive comments about progress being made from several Committee

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members. The next meeting in January will be a beginning design exercise led by the National Park Service's *Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance* Program staff person guiding the group. More interested parties will be added as the process continues.

6. Others – Kaiser and Vanasse reported on plans for a spring gathering/fund raiser at Oliphant in Somerset. Also, a possible gathering/fund raiser at 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel in New Richmond. Other avenues for events were discussed for the future. Details will follow.

Susan Heuiser discussed the requests for two speakers at the upcoming Coalition meetings. General consensus was to invite speakers for the March and April meetings at an in-person meeting (provided there are no pandemic issues) that the general public would be invited to. She will check in with those speakers regarding their availability.

7. Set next meeting date – February 8, 2023 – The meeting was set for **February 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in person at the Somerset Library** if it is available and there are not health restrictions.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Economic Tourism Event, Outreach – Long and Short Term, UP Railroad Trestle, Fund Raisers

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

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Kyle Lindstrom, McGinnis) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuiser, Secretary