

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom February 10, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER – André Johnson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:30 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE – The agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset and the Village of Somerset Town Halls and on the Trails Coalition’s web site.

ROLL CALL – Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser, Kyle Lindstrom. Board members absent were Dave Mandel, Paul McGinnis, and Mark Vanasse as well as Andrew Lamers, Alternate. Ben Heuser and Sharon Keiser were also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Lindstrom, Gherty) to adopt the agenda as written. **Carried** with no opposition.

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

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – January 13, 2021 – A **motion** (Gherty, Lindstrom) to approve the January 13, 2021, minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Communications Committee – Gherty reported a recommendation from the Committee to implement the Donor Box online donation application.

Further, he reported a recommendation from the Committee to file a SPARK grant application with the Hudson Community Foundation to form a Friends Group for the Lake Mallalieu Basin properties. The single grant application awardee will receive \$10,000 for their project.

He also reported receipt of documents from the Red Cedar/Hoffman Hills Friends Group that will serve as models for document creation for a Lake Mallalieu Basin Friends Group.

Financial Report – In Vanasse’s absence, Susan Heuser discussed the revenues and disbursements for January. There were no questions.

Healthier Together – In McGinnis’s absence, Susan Heuser reported the thrust of the group continues to be mental health programs. Heuser also reported new grant opportunities from St. Croix Valley Foundation regarding programs for mental health issues.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Susan Heuser reported this committee will likely meet via Zoom in early spring to discuss trail possibilities along the corridor.

Pathway – Susan Heuser reported a very full February meeting since the group had not met since October. Highlights included the disc golf facility that is ready for creation with an expected opening in summer 2021, spring paving and lighting of the Doar Prairie/Nature Center trail, large construction project at WITC that will close some trails and create others on the campus to increase safety around the campus for walkers and bikers, planning for the proposed trail along CTH A that includes a safe crossing of CTH A to the Nature Center (design in 2021 with construction expected in 2022), 50th year anniversary celebration for the Nature Center, etc.

Beyond the Loop – Susan Heuser reported that changes to the map/brochures required because of changes to signage and street names in the Doar Prairie area of the trail will need to wait until the City of New Richmond and St. Croix County have made the necessary changes.

Lift and Loop – Susan Heuser reported preliminary discussion among event organizers about an August 2021 celebration of the opening of the Historic Stillwater Lift Bridge. Plans are dependent on the pandemic situation at the time.

Trail Summit(s) – Discussion was brief about both an economic summit and a bicycle summit both on hold until pandemic issues allow for in person meetings.

Others that may be available – None were presented.

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ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Bike Rack Initiative – Johnson reported on details of the Osceola High School Tech Ed class creating 12 bike racks for the Trails Coalition. The racks will be ready by the end of the school year in late spring of 2021. Trails Coalition members will then begin distributing them to various locations that indicated an interest in a rack.
2. Membership Dues and Donations Update – Donor Box – Discussion included issues about how to differentiate membership fees, which *are not* deductible for IRS tax filing purposes, and donations, which *are* deductible, as Donor Box generates automatic responses via the online account. Members thought there should definitely be a minimum dollar amount for membership in the organization and also that this online donation capability is necessary. A **motion** (Gherty, Lindstrom) to approve Donor Box as a donation tool. **Carried** with no opposition.
3. Union Pacific Railroad Trestle Property Friends Group – Adding to the discussion during the Communication Committee report, Board members thought it wise to create a subcommittee of the Trails Coalition to implement a Friends Group for the Lake Mallalieu Basin. Any funds received from a SPARK grant award would fund founding activities for the Friends Group. When the Friends Group is formally organized, it is anticipated the group will separate from the Trails Coalition to become a stand-alone organization. A **motion** (Gherty, Lindstrom) to file a SPARK grant application with the Hudson Community Foundation to form a Friends Group for the Lake Mallalieu Basin. **Carried** with no opposition.
4. Future Trails Coalition Projects – In Vanasse’s absence, Susan Heuser led the discussion about a list of projects the Trails Coalition could pursue in the coming months. Ongoing projects discussed were the bike rack initiative, Healthier Together membership, Pathway committee connection, Hwy 64 Loop Trail to 150th Street, Parnell Prairie Preserve in Somerset, and the Union Pacific Railroad trestle. At least one Board member took responsibility for Trails Coalition activity for these projects. Longer term projects discussed were Hwy 64 Landing Hill area along St. Croix National Golf Course property, Baldwin trail connections to the Wildwood Trail and between the Baldwin & Woodville, and a trail possibility in Willow River State Park along an old railroad bed as it crosses the park. Those projects will need a designated lead person to manage Trails Coalition participation. Other long-term projects not specifically involving a trail facility are an Economic Summit, a Bike & Ped Summit, membership in the Trails Coalition, publicity for the Trails Coalition and creating connections among trail organizations in the greater St. Croix Valley on both sides of the St. Croix River. Board members will review the list and let Vanasse know by February 22nd which projects they might be interested in leading.
5. Others – There were no other items presented.
6. Set next meeting date – March 10, 2021 – The next meeting was set for **March 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** via Zoom.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Bike Rack Initiative, Donor Box, Lake Mallalieu Basin Friends Group, Creation of a Lake Mallalieu Basin Sub-Committee, Future Trails Coalition Projects

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Gherty, Kaiser) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuser, Secretary