

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Communications Committee  
Loop Trail Main Trailhead, August 31, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mark Gherty, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE** – The statement of public notice was posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall and on the Trails Coalition web site.

**ROLL CALL** – Committee members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, Janet Lindstrom, and alternate Mark Vanasse. André Johnson, Andrew Lamers and Tim Witzmann were absent. Ben Heuser was also in attendance.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Lindstrom, Vanasse) 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. Lindstrom, the Town of St. Joseph Parks and Recreation Committee Chairperson, reported a message from St. Croix County’s Community Development Department regarding the portions of the Loop Trail abutting town roads are the Town’s responsibility to maintain and police. Currently at issue are complaints from the public about safety issues related to the Loop Trail on those Town sections of the trail.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – January 4, 2020 – Approval of the January 4, 2020, minutes was deferred until the next Committee meeting.

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

1. Status Report for Ongoing Outreach Projects

- a) Trail Summit – Gherty reported an excellently planned meeting regarding the economic development potential of trail infrastructure was scheduled for the spring of 2020 just as the pandemic meeting restrictions were coming into effect. That meeting was postponed and will hopefully be rescheduled for the spring of 2021 if pandemic conditions allow.
- b) Bike Rack Initiative – Gherty reported 10 bike racks have been requested – 2 each for Glover Park in the Town of Troy, the Phipps Center for the Arts, Hop and Barrel in the City of Hudson, Big Guys in the Town of St. Joseph and the Town of Hudson. Johnson has been in contact with WITC and knows the school is starting in person learning for the fall term. He will monitor whether the school will still be in session when the class that assembles the bike racks is set to start. Hopefully, bike racks will be ready for installation in the spring of 2021.
- c) Lift and Loop Celebration – Gherty reported this celebration has been tentatively rescheduled close to the first anniversary of the Historic Lift Bridge opening, June 1, 2021.
- d) UP RR Bridge and Property – Gherty discussed ongoing efforts to acquire the Union Pacific abandoned railroad bridge and associated property located between the City of Hudson and the Village of North Hudson. He also relayed information about a planned September 14<sup>th</sup> visioning meeting regarding the property to get information to people in the area and to receive input from attendees about the property’s potential as a park on a scenic river.
- e) Fund Raiser in Hudson – Vanasse, Trails Coalition Treasurer, proposed an idea to meet the Coalition’s annual costs by charging a membership fee in 2021. He discussed a \$20 or \$30 membership fee saying he wanted the Board to weigh in on the amount of the fee. General consensus among those present was supportive of such a plan, some noting other organizations they join each year to support the organization’s work. Vanasse’s proposal would also dedicate any official fund raisers held to a specific purpose.

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He also discussed the difficulties involved in fund raising during the pandemic in the context of fund raising for the UP RR Bridge and Property, noting that the Trail Coalition could be a part of any proposed fund raising effort for the property.

2. Updating Coalition Goals and Objectives – Susan Heuser introduced the topic noting good suggestions from David Brooks’ book *The Second Mountain...* that could be used to frame the Trail Coalition’s discussion for this topic. Gherty then led the discussion that resulted in some refining of the information from Brooks’ book for use by the Coalition and some suggestions how to handle this topic as an ongoing discussion item at Coalition Board of Directors’ meetings to keep the issues at the forefront of the future management of the organization. Suggestions will be placed on the Board of Directors’ next agenda.
3. Other(s) – There were no other topics discussed.
4. Set next meeting date - October 27, 2020

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Plan for Updating Coalition Goals and Objectives, Funding Proposal for Membership Fees, UP RR Property, Reports from Ongoing Communications Initiatives

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA** – Nothing noted at this time.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA** – Approval of two sets of minutes, Plan for Updating Coalition Goals and Objectives, Bike Rack Initiative, Trail Summit, Lift and Loop Celebration, UP RR Trestle and Associated Property

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Vanasse, Susan Heuser) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuser, Secretary