

**MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Communications Committee**  
**Virtual Meeting Via Zoom – April 5, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** – André Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. because Chairperson Mark Gherty was delayed briefly.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE** – The agenda was posted at both the Town and Village of Somerset and on the Coalition web site.

**ROLL CALL- Committee** - Committee members present were Mark Gherty (after 6:45 p.m.), Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Janet Lindstrom, Tim Witzmann and alternate Mark Vanasse. Committee member Andrew Lamers was absent. Ben Heuser and Lauren Schneider were also present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Witzmann, 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. Tim Witzmann reminded everyone to vote on April 6th.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – February 2, 2021 – Following a discussion of an amendment to the minutes for clarity, a **motion** (Witzmann, Lindstrom) to approve the February 2, 2021, minutes as amended. **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from individuals about information gathered for the committee. There were no reports.

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

1. Approval of 2021 Committee White Paper for 2020 – After discussion, a **motion** (Johnson, Lindstrom) to approve the 2021 White Paper for 2020 for the committee. **Carried** with no opposition. The White Paper will become part of the 2021 Annual Report to be approved at the April 14, 2021, Board of Directors meeting.
2. Future Projects
  - a) Loop Trail Winter Snowplowing Message Results – Susan Heuser discussed details regarding messages sent to St. Croix County decision makers about winter snow plowing of the Loop Trail. The matter is one of many to be discussed as the County budgeting process for 2022 takes place.
  - b) August 2021 Bike Ride Support for Stillwater Rotary – Both Gherty and Johnson have been in touch with Stillwater Rotary members planning an ambitious bike ride event entitled *Bridge the Valley* slated for mid-August. The ride has various routes on both sides of the St. Croix River. Particularly at issue is the route that moves through the City of Hudson and the major road construction project being done through the City and Village of North Hudson by WisDOT. Stillwater Rotary people have information about road closures/slow downs and may be speaking to City personnel about any permitting that might be possible. Gherty will follow up with the Hudson Chamber of Commerce.
3. UP Railroad – Friends Group Formation – Gherty reported progress on receiving confirmation from prospective members to be on this committee, those members ultimately becoming the incorporators of the nonprofit Friends Group being formed for the Union Pacific Railroad trestle and surrounding properties. Research and documentation to create this group are both well into the development stage. The process will take some months to achieve but work is expected to go on during the summer to put details in place.
  - a) Approval of Committee Charter – A **motion** (Johnson, Witzmann) to recommend approval of the Charter to the Board of Directors. **Carried** with no opposition.
4. Bike Rack Initiative
  - a) Relevant Dates – Johnson will have specific dates for bike rack completion by the April 14, 2021, Board of Directors meeting.

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- b) Type of Signage – Different types of signage have been discussed to acknowledge the Hudson Daybreak Rotary and the Trails Coalition as these bike racks are put in place. General consensus was to place a weatherproof sticker on the racks for each organization.
- 5. Fund Raising/Marketing Issues – Donor Box – Susan Heuiser discussed fine tuning changes to the online donation application on the Coalition web site, the number of donations received so far, and details from the organizations processing donations as they are recorded in the Coalition bank account.
- 6. Projects on Hold
  - a) Trail Summit – This summit about the economic impact of trails on a local economy, a cooperative effort between St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation, St Croix County, the Trails Coalition and others, is on hold until pandemic conditions will make large indoor gatherings feasible – likely the Spring of 2022 at the earliest.
  - b) Lift and Loop – This celebration of the opening of the Stillwater Historic Lift Bridge on June 1, 2020, is on hold depending on Minnesota guidelines related to large outdoor gatherings in late summer. City of Stillwater and Minnesota Department of Transportation officials are in charge of when a celebration might be scheduled.
- 7. Other(s) – Gherty reported contact related to summer plans to build mountain biking trails in Willow River State Park. There will be a fund raiser to watch for to help with construction of this facility in the Park. All the necessary permissions are in place to allow this trail construction.
- 8. Set next meeting date – May 3,2021 or other – The next meeting was set for May 3, 2021, via Zoom.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Approval of 2021 Annual report for 2020, Approval of Friends of Lake Mallalieu Basin subcommittee charter, Bike Rack Initiative Specifics

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

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA** – Friends of Lake Mallalieu Basin, Bike Rack Placement, Bridge the Valley Bike Ride, Loop Trail Winter Snowplowing

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Lindstrom, Witzmann) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at 7: 40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuiser