

**Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission**  
(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germain and the City of Eagle River)  
**August 24, 2023 4:00 PM**  
**Eagle River City Hall 525 E Maple St, Eagle River, WI**

1. Meeting called to order at 4:13 PM public present included:

Carlton Schroeder - (GHT Sugar Camp)  
Francine Gough - Cloverland Supervisor  
Gary Meister - GHT

Karen Margelofsky - Eagle River Revitalization  
Holly Tomlanovitch - Washington  
Tom Tomlanovitch - Washington  
Chris Nafziger - Zoom Tara Lily

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Meeting Posting was verified for all 3 participating municipalities.
4. Roll Call - **Jim Swenson** - Chairman, **Joe Spitz** - Cloverland , **Ron Kressin**-not present Quorum Present.
5. No objections were made to taking the agenda in any order at the discretion of Chairman
6. Swenson motioned to approve the July20, 2023 meeting minutes, Spitz seconded. Board vote approved the minutes.
7. Bank account not discussed.

The meeting discussion included:

Per Swenson that the Commission need to be informed about all aspects of the the trail and be able to answer any misconceptions that arise. The Commissioners must be committed despite the hurdles in the last couple of months.

Per Spitz, there are people with misconceptions, that had previously endorsed it, but have unfortunately reversed their position on the support. We don't seem to have answers as to the reason that this has occurred . But for now we are charged with looking into alternatives for the eastern portion of the trail from the intersection of Highway 17 and Highway 70 near Parson's.

The original trial plan does not have any highway crossings in Lincoln which was one of the stated misconception.

New marketing materials by GHT are doing a better job educating the public at various board presentations per Margelofsky.

There will be an article in News Review to clarify where things are with the River Trail. Next weeks GHT Board meeting willing formulating statement on commitment.

The recent Safety concerns are very confusing. Spitz talked about DOT Bicycle Facility Design Manual safety design instructions and proper bicycle riding behavior, especially at intersections. We could all learn something! It also states that the safest bike paths are "one sided" where they go along a road where the roads do not actually cross the bike path, exactly like the proposed segments along the river achieve.

Swenson noted that he current Heart of Vilas trail feeds from the sides of neighborhoods or road intersections and has no history of safety problems. There was a discussion about elementary school phy-ed education in St. Germain as all school right on the local trails. Times are changed a lot. You very seldom see a youngster without a helmet on due to the education by parents and educators.

What are the real safety concerns? They seem to be popping all over suddenly. The plan has been out there for years.

GHT Alternative Trail Exploration:

Looking for an alternate from CTY H going east over to Sundstein on the south side of Hwy 70 using the power line corridor.

Meeting minutes submitted by Joe Spitz

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Also doing an alternative proposal north of current proposed trail via Sunset Rd./ Hwy G/ Adams Rd also has significant wetland issues.

The alternatives will avoid all the businesses along highway 70 which is a very negative aspect of alternatives to the original proposed route.

It was stated that there were reports of a government official that was going to home owners along the Lincoln corridor trying to undermine their possible support of the trail.

Maintenance Costs:

Meister suggested that the Commission needs to approve a care plan, and we need to begin to accumulate funds slowly now. Phelps recently passed a room tax and ordinance and theirs actually specifies that part of it will be used for trail maintenance.

The concern voiced by Mike Anderson at the previous RTC meeting, comparing trail cost/maintenance for a new BJ segment was discussed. It was found that he was comparing misleading trail costs in BJ vs. the “per mile costs” of the proposed River Trail. It was due to the confusing wording in the article. The extra add on segment discussed was only 3000’ for the amount quoted for the build, not the entire 5 mile segment that he assumed it meant.

H. Tomlanovitch stated that we need to help the town of Lincoln understand the “berry pickers” law that absolves them from law suits.

She also noted that Townships are used to trail systems that are administered by DNR where licensing fees and gas tax are funneled back to the trail organization for funding. They have now even provided for grants for reinforcement of roads where snow mobiles trails cross. Towns need reassurance that someone has their “back” on maintenance.

There were no motions made or passed during the meeting.

12. None

13. None

14. Next meeting date was not established at this meeting (tbd).

15. Meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM