

Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission
(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germain and the City of Eagle River)
August 31, 2022 1:30PM
Eagle River City Hall 525 E Maple St, Eagle River, WI 54521

1. Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM public present included:

Jeff and Ann Currie (JC)- Cloverland

Robin Ginner- (RG) Eagle River Administrator

Todd Bierman- Vilas Cty. Parks and Rec.

Francine Gough (FG) -Supv. Cloverland

Holly Tomlanovitch - Vilas Co. Board, (Washington)

Alex Degutis (Lincoln)

Fritz Laeser (Lincoln)

Gary Meister - (GHT Sugar Camp)

Carlton Schroeder (CS) - (GHT Sugar Camp)

Jim Meiers - Lincoln

Mike Robillard - (zoom)

Dan Kramer - Lincoln

Casey Mangan - (Phelps GHT)

Woody Albhorn - Washington GHT

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Meeting Posting was verified for all 3 participating municipalities.

4. Roll Call - **Ron Kressin** (RK), **Joe Spitz** (JJS), **Jim Swenson** (JS) - Chairman. Quorum Present.

5. No objections were made to taking the agenda in any order at the discretion of Chairman

6. RK moved to approve the 5/12/22 meeting minutes. JJS seconded. Board vote approved the minutes.

7a. Bank Balance \$4846.85. All municipalities donated \$500. this year.

7b. Mike Robillard talked about meeting with DOT where they learned that they felt that the Commission could hold the private easements in Lincoln. JC mentioned that Steve Garbowitz that after consulting with the head attorney at Chicago Title that they would be willing to insure title for the Commission held easements. It is a separate issue from holding DOT permits which still must be held by a municipality. This means that Lincoln would still need to hold/agree to a "State Municipal Agreement" SMA if any Town land was used rather than private property.

Spitz asked about how to get an opinion on what holding this in RTC would mean to the municipalities it on it. Holly mentioned the state "berry pickers" law in the State of WI would cover this. The liability insurance is to defend any suits to get them dismissed (assuming there was not some unreasonable hazard created by the owner. We agreed to get some sample easements sent to the Commission so that we could share these with the municipality as part of these minutes. Spitz made a motion that we should give questions to Steve Garbowitz on how this would work (Commission holding easements) and what it would mean to the municipalities that have formed it. Motion seconded by Kressin. Motion passed. Spitz agreed to try to see if Steve G. could give us an answer yet this week before he leaves on vacation until Sept. 26. Robillard said GHT has a number of questions relating to this in with the DOT and they will share anything they hear back.

7c. Swenson discussed the meeting held with the Snowmobile and ATV interest and GHT and Jim to start the discussions relating to how the trail/other trails would be laid out to get from current trail to the bridge and where it goes after. Gary Penner of St. G ATV Club president has taken the challenge to define the possible route from Zeman to the bridge. Keith Madeschein (new Snow Eagle President) is willing to get actively involved in developing trails. Currie discussed need of timing relating to the upcoming after discussions with Ben Rothkowski (sp?) (DOT) discussed who suggested that we consider applying for segment 2 on west end due to the importance of showing "connectivity". He suggested that we state that people would ride their bikes on Segment 1 on the roadway for now. This led to discussion on how to identify issues relative to the concerns of the proposed path along Segment 2 in Cloverland. Spitz suggested that we need to reach out to the land owners along old 70 to get data on their concerns/opinions/ support about the changes it would mean along their properties within the town's ROW. He volunteered to get the address listing so that a communication could be sent to all of them to inform them of the possible trail location this would provide data to the town of Cloverland so that we could consider alternates or modification. Spitz will develop a mailing list for this segment and begin a draft of this communication. Perhaps we could consider the issue with the snowmobile trail being on the road currently for Old 70 from Cty O to Hwy 70 and see if there might be a way to help eliminate that at the same time.

Tomlanovitch said that the county would lead the Snowmobile and OHV element of the bridge if it is built they would have to apply for grants for the motorized bridge. Spitz said that what have now is an agreement, that to accomodate the possiblility of a motorized bridge, that the River Trail bridge would be further away from the highway bridge (space for motorized bridge deck), than it might have been if it were alone. Our goal could be that we want to get funding for both adjacent bridges so that we could take advantage of the staging costs associated with construction of the river stantions, approaches, and crane work to be able to build the bridges.

7d. The corporate counsel for Vilas was against the County joining the comission. Holly will continue to review this with appropriate parties.

8a. Meister and Schroeder discussed the two projects that have been accepted as UW Plattville Senior Student project who will develop proposals for the Hwy 45 crossing near Kwik Trip in Eagle River. The other is the extension of the Conover Phelps trial to extend it to Torch Lake. They will be here Sept.22 for on site visit to experience the project area first hand. The other work and

Meeting minutes submitted by Joe Spitz

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meeting will take place virtually.

8b. Some concern was expressed as to it possibly being a problem to start segment 1 as an on road trail because it might eliminate the will to ever get it off road for that small segment.

8d. Jeff Currie asked if we as commission supports the current plan other than routing along G or the power easements. All the commission members that there are in support of the current plan, particularly to accomodate pedestrians. Laeser stated that residents at his establishment loved the fact that they could walk into Eagle River safely when one of the new lanes was blocked while the curb work was being done, illustrating the value of a trail through Lincoln.

9. There were no public comments or letters and communications noted

10. Public Comments - none

11. Next regular meeting was confirmed for Sept. 28 at 4:00 PM at Eagle River City Hall.

12. Motion to adjourn was made and passed at 5:24PM