

**Approved Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission**  
**(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germaine and the City of Eagle River)**  
**May 19, 2020 4:00 PM**  
**Cloverland Town Hall, 5860 Perch Lake Road, in Eagle River, Wisconsin**

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 4:04 PM by Chairman Jim Swenson. Other board members present: Joe Spitz (recently appointed Town of Cloverland Supervisor and Eagle River City Council Member Ron Kressin joined the meeting at 4:10. A quorum of 3 of 3 members present for the meeting.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited
3. **Verification of posting** was confirmed as of 5/14 with the amended agenda to add Zoom call in voice only number.
4. **Roll call** was completed. Great Head Waters Trail Members present included: Jeff Currie, Gary Meister, Tim Wright, Fritz Laeser, Marv Anderson, Ted Ritter\*, Carlton Schroeder. Citizens present included: Francine Gough -Cloverland Town Supervisor, Steve Favorite. (former commission chairman). (\* Zoom Attendees)
5. **Approval to accept agenda in any order** at Chairman's discretion was accepted.
6. **December 4, 2019 minutes** were distributed and approved.
7. **Commission Business and Concerns** - none were mentioned.
8. **GHT reports and recommendations.**
  - a. **Trail Easements** - Fritz Laeser has been chosen/volunteered to be the test case to develop the first easement. The title company is to get the legal property description based on a meeting with them this morning. Next, they will layout and mark them and then go to Steve Garbowitz for a legal opinion. The question from Steve Favorite arose as to who will "hold the easements" once they become associated with the properties. Ron Kressin indicated that Eagle River will hold the easements in their boundaries. Nothing determined for the balance of the trail, but this needs to be a future agenda item. A question arose as to when the easement will be formally recorded (at the time of the permission or just before construction of the trail begins for that segment. Gary Meister? suggested that it was a good idea to do the recording as soon as it was granted so that it would help with the fundraising / grant proposals to show that this is not an issue that will hold up trail installation once the funds are available i.e. a "shovel ready" appearance. There are 22 private property easements along the currently proposed trail path. Steve Favorite suggested that Commission should go back to the Town of Lincoln at some time and try enlist their support of the commission. The primary issue that needs to be addressed is how the trail maintenance will be handled so more work needs to take place to determine that issue.
  - b. **Engineering Report:** 30% of the plan engineering is essentially complete. Chad of MSA has a preliminary OK from DOT on the plan and is waiting for DNR (Melissa Yardon of DNR will help guide it through the dept.) Group is looking for other ways to reduce the amount of boardwalk in current plan for cost reasons. Next phase will be to move to 60% engineering design completion milestone. A recognized issue is that the current trail easement passes through at least 2 business parking areas (Hawk's Nest Canoe and Kayak, and Honey Bear restaurant). Will need to get permission from them. Where Old Hwy 70 goes meets Hwy 70 the trail will pass through part of the American Legion State Forest which will require a revision of the master plan, a process that can take up to 2 years.
  - c. **Highway 70 Recreational Bridge** -GHT has not negotiated with the Snowmobile clubs for the bridge to be built over the river near the Honeybear. They have to take it to the Governor's Council for approval which will take some time. It was determined that the recreational bridge over the Rainbow Flowage is virtually identical to the one that will be required for the trail in Cloverland. Dale Mayo and the DOT will be meeting regarding a recreational bridge so he is involved.
  - d. **Fundraising** - is expected that 5.5 -6 million will be required for the River Trail being developed. The MLS grant application made in December was not successful in being awarded funds; however, a TAP grant has been applied for. As it is Federal money it would come with a number of administrative strings attached for record keeping.
  - e. **Proposed Route** -The review held at Trees for Tomorrow in February has not generated much response. Covid pre-occupation? A field trip was suggested for later this summer and possibly linking to the" video tour" of riding down the trail developed by MSA.

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- 9. **Letters and communications** - None
- 10. **Public Comments** - None
- 11. **Next meeting date** set for 8/18/2020 at 4:00 PM at Town Hall of Cloverland.
- 12. **Meeting adjourned** at 5:03 PM