

**Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission (RTC) (pending approval at next meeting)**  
**(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germaine and the City of Eagle River)**  
**August 18, 2020 4:00 PM**  
**Cloverland Town Hall, 5860 Perch Lake Road, in Eagle River, Wisconsin**

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 4:05 PM by Chairman Jim Swenson. Other board members present: Joe Spitz 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 8/16 with the agenda.
4. **Roll call** was completed. Great Head Waters Trial (GHT) Members present included: Jeff Currie (via speaker phone), Gary Meister, Fritz Laeser, Carlton Schroeder, Mike Robillard  
Other present included: Holly Tomlavich (Vilas Co. Board), Steve Favorite. (former commission chairman)
5. **Approval of the Agenda to be discussed in any order at discretion of the Chair.**- Agenda followed in order as posted.
6. **Approval of May 19,2020 meeting minutes** - approved with minor corrections.
7. **Commission Business and Concerns.**
  - a. **Meeting Minutes and Record Keeping** – Joe Spitz agreed to continue with this responsibility as part of the Commission
  - b. **Zoom Account from Commission Funds**- Discussion settled on the offer to change the meeting location to the Zoom facilities at the City of Eagle River to avoid having to fund a Zoom capability at the Cloverland Town Hall without having to fund it with RTC funds
8. **GHT Foundation, Inc reports and recommendations**- a handout report summary was presented by members of GHT to summarize development status, etc. It is attached to these minutes as an appendix. Discussion Summary:  
Recently, GHT has started activity focusing on the Town of Lincoln properties where the trail will require easements from 22 property owners (one of the properties is currently up for sale, which may cause a delay). They have started marking the proposed trail with the Edgewater Inn and Cottages (Fritz Laeser property) and 3 adjacent properties. During the activity of the marking, conversations with the owners were held explaining the project and eliciting thoughts and concerns. Art Senika's property was one of them. He has begun to express a positive feeling about the trail through his property as a positive for the community and seemed positive for considering an easement for his and feels his son would be positive as well for his adjacent property. In all, the current planned route of the trail will require 22 private property easements. The GHT intends to continue these contacts and offer a Letter of Understanding Document to the land owners to begin to confirm they are willing to grant the easement. Then the formal easements would be drawn up and executed. The balance of the trail is currently planned on DOT right of way. Other items discussed included:  
  
Lake County Title Services has volunteered to help the commission by preparing Letter Reports for the easements when they are developed.  
  
The holder of these deeded easements must be with a municipality. It is possible for a municipality to hold easements that are actually located in another municipality e.g. Eagle River could hold easements in the Town of Lincoln (according to a legal opinion from Steve Garbowitz). Ron Kressin will attempt to get this topic on the next Eagle River board meeting agenda for discussion.  
  
Regarding trail maintenance: If no DOT funds are used on the private easements granted, the DOT does not require that they are maintained e.g. snow removal etc. If they are involved in funding there is a "formula" that they use regarding a ratio regarding the number of businesses that are involved in their path. There may be the possibility of the businesses within Eagle River interceding with the City to provide services in this section. In the case of the "rural sections" the DOT does not normally require maintenance.  
  
Regarding the upgrade to HWY 70 next year, GHT put together a comment to the DOT recommending the 3 lane option in order that the wider paved shoulders it has provides a better buffer to the planned pedestrian/bike trail.
9. **Letters and communications** - None
10. **Public Comments** - None
11. **Next meeting date** set for 10/14/2020 at 4:00 PM at Eagle River City Hall facilities.
12. **Meeting adjourned** at 5:01 PM