

**Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission
(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germaine and the City of Eagle River)
January 13, 2021 4:00 PM
Eagle River City Hall, 525 E. Maple St. Eagle River 54521**

Also available via Zoom

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 4:02 PM by Chairman Jim Swenson. Other RTC board members present were Eagle River City Council Member Ron Kressin , Joe Spitz Town of Cloverland Supervisor. A quorum of 3 of 3 commission members was present for the meeting.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited
3. **Verification of posting** was confirmed
4. **Roll call** was completed. Great Head Waters Trail Members present included: Carlton Schroeder, Jeff Currie *, Gary Meister* and Steve Favorite*. Citizens present included: Joe Laux – Eagle River City Administrator, Francine Gough -Cloverland Town Supervisor, Fritz Laeser (Edgewater Inn & Cottages). (* Zoom Attendees)
5. **Approval to accept agenda in any order** at Chairman’s discretion was accepted.
6. **October 14, 2020 meeting minutes** were distributed and approved with a minor correction.
7. **Commission Business and Concerns –**
 - a. Grants/Programs for 2021 - The 2020 State MLS grant program was discussed and if potentially such grants would be available in the next budget cycle as indicated by Wisconsin Towns Association. Joe Laux clarified that during the last grant cycle, when the Pleasure Island Road grant was awarded, the legislature objected to the format of the MLS/LRIP grant structure, particularly in regards to the three-way split of the \$75M into roughly thirds. Some for public transportation and alternative transportation and road improvements, instead of just using the gas tax funds for LRIP (local road improvement projects only). The Supreme court supported their position so the MLS portion may never occur. Instead, Joe Laux suggested that the approach of going for a DOT planning grant and completing that planning, followed by attempting to get a combined DOT/DNR grant package might be a perhaps longer but alternate approach.
 - b. **Plans/Goals/Targets for 2021**
This was discussed during the 8.0 items

8. GHT Reports and Recommendations

Jeff Currie discussed fund raising. Keeping eyes on MLS and what develops. Perhaps we should still advocate with People with Bikes will be sending letter to apply for \$10K . Bike Federation also has some grants normally focused on urban but Jeff will stay in contact with them. For fundraising some routine, VFW perhaps this summer, D.Q. both provide some small funds. Septimber Ride has the potential for raising another \$7000 to help show by these fund raising that there is support and interest for making the project go forward. They hope to be able to establish a presence this year May attract some “deep pockets”. Jeff said that they have had such interest in supporting the completion of the Conover- Phelps completion and they showed some interest in the River Trail as well.

Carlton provided the documents recently completed that outline their organizational structure for the leadership of River Tail Team (mostly engineering), FoRT (up to 40-50 people on list) to assist with promotion and increasing interest in developing the trail. The last of the 3 groups was the Fund-Raising team. Another document was to establish goals for the 2021 for each of the three teams.

Steve Favorite suggested that FoRT attend the Town of Lincoln and show interest in their business as well as making some status updates during the Public Comment period.

One of the key things in the plan was for FoRT team to work on establishing a relationship with the Town of Lincoln to work with them on the issues of holding easements and the required State Municipal Agreements (SMA) that would be required by the DOT.

During the COVID spike this fall they have been reluctant to have a number of contacts with the people to discuss easements etc. Ron Kressing said that in our Covid environment it has the potential to help endorse the outdoor “silent sports”

8. **Letters and communications** - None
9. **Public Comments** – Steve Favorite shared some views of the local bike trails in Scottsdale AZ that is used for biking, hiking, and skateboarding the 35 miles to Tempe. It is very well used.
10. **Next meeting date** set for 4/14/2021 at 4:00 PM at Eagle River City Hall.
11. **Meeting adjourned** at 4:41 PM