

Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission

(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germain and the City of Eagle River)

Jan.26, 2022 4:00 PM

Eagle River City Hall, 525 E. Maple St. Eagle River 54521

Also available via Zoom

1. Meeting called to order 4:00 PM Public Present included:

Gary Meister (GM) - Eagle River, Carlton Schroeder (CS), Jeff and Ann Currie (JC)- Cloverland, Dan Kramer (Lincoln), Fritz Laeser, Jim Meiers (Lincoln), Francine Gough (FG) -Supv. Cloverland, Tim Wright - Washington, Robin Ginner Eagle River City Administrator, Holly Tomlanavich- Cty. Supervisor (Wash.), Tom Tomlanavich, Todd Bierman- Vilas Cty. Parks and Rec, Marv Anderson- Vilas Cty. Supervisor (St. G.), Karen Anderson, Tim Wright-GHT, Jim Meires-GHT

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

4. Roll Call - Present: 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. Minutes from the Dec. 6, 2021 meeting of the RTC had been distributed prior to the meeting. JS moved to approve the minutes, RK seconded the motion. Board vote approved the minutes.

7a-c. Jim Swenson reported that as of 12/31/21 the checking account for the commission balance was \$3781.85. JJS suggested that we need to develop a spending budget for 2022 as required in the commission agreement each year before we get approval for the calendar year donation by the participants. It was agreed that we accomplish that at the next commission meeting and go back for our respective township approvals for any 2022 donations required. Motion by JJS and RK seconded. Motion passed.

7d. Though a meeting was held among JS, HT, TB and GHT members to discuss the TAP grant approach to funding, it was decided that the Vilas Forest Rec & Land County meeting held shortly thereafter did not support its lack of inclusion ability for ATV/UTV incorporation. Instead it was decided to instead pursue other options for (Honey Bear) bridge funding via other alternatives such as a combination of RTP and Snowmobile funding. A concept of two "divided lane" bridge that was perhaps 8' wide for bike/ped and 12' wide on the lane for snowmobile/ATV use. There is an April deadline for the upcoming TRP grant cycle.

Discussions then took place regarding the value of having a Vilas County representative being appointed to the River Trail Commission. Discussion of board position complications to maintain an "odd" membership number were discussed but could be accommodated by adding the addition Cloverland position or Lincoln joining the commission. Regardless, the Commission agreement would require redrafting anyway. Since the new Vilas County Board Chairman (TBD post spring election) would have to make this appointment at the April 19th board meeting at the earliest, further discussion was postponed.

The value of possible County involvement was highlighted by Marv Anderson discussed the benefits of having an appointed member from the VC Board who is able to liaise with County committees and keep the County Board informed.

JJS motioned that RTC approach the county to consider joining and appointing a member to the RTC given the fact that it is part of completing the bike / ped trail system that crisscrosses all of Vilas County. Motion seconded by RK and passed.

7e. JC discussed that it would be a good idea to have MSA take at a more serious look at the bridge design to develop some type of updated cost estimate. Marv Anderson who commented that VC has received \$4.1 million in ARPA money and according to Vilas County Finance Directly it is allowed to be used for trail development, as part of the economic recovery intention of the federal funding. We could apply for some of these funds for this purpose and hope that some funds might be approved for our purposes.

8. JC mentioned that GHT was thinking that they might want to hire a professional to acquire easements and give advice to the Commission. They are currently 10 (LOI's) Letters of intent signed by owners of the 24 required, that already allow staking.

CS discussed the possible 17/70 roundabout that is proposed and how that might affect the proposed route of the trail. Park St. County property along the park was discussed. East end connection to cross 45 asked to stay on sidewalk to Quick Trip. We felt that Snomo crossing north of their might be better for everyone to get across to parking lots downtown. suggested that we contact Rich Handrich and possibly meet as a group perhaps include Traffic Safety Commission. Robin Ginner mentioned that they that there were several people interested in the benefit of a safer crossing. There is an interest in having boat parking near the Hwy 45 bridge and then being able to come up the board walk and go across at the same crossing

JC suggested another possible action item to consider after the snow clears. It was that we take a more detailed look, as a Commission / GHT group, at the segments of the trail along Old Hwy 70 to talk about where trees would have to be removed etc. or possible changes in this specific area.

There were no public comments or letters and communications noted

Next meeting scheduled for April 27th at 4:00 PM

Motion to adjourn was made at passed at 4:53 PM

Meeting minutes submitted by Joe Spitz