

Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission
(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germain and the City of Eagle River)
September 28, 2022 4:00 PM
Eagle River City Hall 525 E Maple St, Eagle River, WI 5

1. Meeting called to order at 4:04 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)

Fritz Laeser (Lincoln)

Carlton Schroeder (CS) - (GHT Sugar Camp)

Olivia Larsen UW Platteville

Erich Heath ” “

Casey Mangan - (Phelps GHT)

Steve Favorite - Cloverland

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 August 31 meeting minutes to include the comment on the SMA requirement as noted in the draft. JJS seconded. Board vote approved the minutes.

8a. The two UW Platteville students on Zoom introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their involvement to try and develop a proposal for the trail crossing HWY to access downtown ER area. They represented their team of 4 students. This is their senior engineering project there. They will be involved in contact with DOT as well. They will have a midterm meeting with GHT in late October 20 and will include Ron Kressin.

7a. Discussed a draft letter that talks about the trail plan along Old 70. I would be sent to property owners along Old Hwy 70 at their address listed in County GIS mapping taxes which would access seasonal owners as well. Addresses for Cloverland and St. Germain. were separated by the two towns so that the letter could go out under the respective commissioner's signature to gather feedback. Need to still gather the current addresses of owners in Cloverland for the portion of Old 70, South of Hwy 70. Also, the tiles of the engineering maps were discussed as they don't currently show the extra 4' of clearing of trees. After discussion it was determined that we need to go to our respective town boards for permission to send the property owners. It was agreed to cover this at the next Cloverland and St. G. Board meetings.

7b. Private easements for the River Trail within that Town of Lincoln and the RTC holding them was discussed. The questions posed by Spitz to Steve Garbowitz and his answers were read and discussed. It was decided that we should review with our town boards to get their opinion on this because of Steve's recommendation that we purchase an "errors and omission" policy for the Commission entity. There was a question posed by Carlton Schroeder about crossing the Town Road next to Seneca Property which will be required by the current plan. We agreed to approach the Town Boards and discuss the liability insurance question and review the insurance policies that the towns have. Also, we will try and get estimates from our various insurance carriers.

7c. Swenson had not reached out to Gary Penner of St. G snowmobile club yet. It was noted that the property on the North East corner of Zeman and Hwy 70 has changed ownership and the current use of it's property for the snowmobile trail and potentially for UTV access was discussed.

7d. Current Corp Counsel position is that the county not join the commission. We could review if his position on the topic changes.

7e. Spitz suggested that we possibly form an outside group to work on this. J. Currie said we could perhaps use Woody Albhorn (GHT-Sayner) to come up a solution of how to come up to an agreement on how maintenance was funded. Use of other municipality equipment/personnel and subcontracting to private entity were discussed. Life expectancy of trail was discussed. Swenson mentioned that of crack filling by Pitlick and Wick was underway for their 12 miles of trail. The cost will be \$28 K for all 12 miles. St.G.(Chamber is funding). Ginner said that typical road life is about 20 years.

8b. A. Currie looking at seeking TAP Grant possibly for segment 2 that starts on Hwy 70 on the east end of Old 70, and proceeds along the DOT ROW along the river. That would mean that temporarily, people would travel on Old 70 itself which could be later improved to an off road, paved trail as well. Ann and Jeff will be attending a conference where they will be able to discuss this with DOT and others.

8c. J. Currie said that the Packer grants will be out shortly and we are keeping our fingers crossed.

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

10. Public Comments - none

11. Next regular meeting was confirmed for Oct. 26 at 4:00 PM at Eagle River City Hall.

12. Motion to adjourn was made and passed at 5:06 PM

Meeting minutes submitted by Joe Spitz