

Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission

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

Nov. 11, 2021 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, 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, Steve Favorite- Cloverland

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

4. Roll Call - Present: Joe Spitz (JJS), Jim Swenson (JS) - Chairman. Quorum Present. Ron Kressin joined at the end of the meeting due to another meeting conflict.

5. No objections were made to taking the agenda in any order at the discretion of Chairman

6. Minutes from the Oct 13, 2021 meeting minutes of the RTC had been sent out prior to the meeting. JS moved to approve the minutes, JJS seconded the motion. Board vote approved the minutes.

7. We discussed the Oct. 26, 2021 bus tour sponsored by GHT for the group which made a number of stops along the way to look at issues. The group included Todd Bierman of Vilas County Land and recreation who is in charge of the Snowmobile and ATV/UTV trail system supervision. Also, the trail design engineer from MSA, Chad Grundeman was on the tour as well. It was a very good opportunity to have interactive questions and answers as we drove along the entire route. Future Tasks to accomplish were suggested by GHT during the next item.

8. GHT Reports/recommendation (see attached GHT Agenda item document)

1. Each township representative needs to come forward with what will be required to gain access to their town road right of way where the proposed trail would pass through it. There are forms and a process for that. Towns also need to answer if they will hold the easement in these right of ways.

2. We need to assess the needed changes along the Old Highway 70 portion that have an impact on residents that own the property along that stretch.

3. Self explanatory.

4. This discussion lead to consideration to try to apply for a TAP grant to get the bridge built enlisting cooperation for the 20% match from Vilas Co. Forestry Land and Rec using state Snowmobile funds from the gas tax. 80% would come from the TAP funding. There was discussion on if Cloverland would sponsor this.

5. The utility locate was done during the design phase but things change between then and the eventual build date. GHT suggested that the towns contact the utilities (since we have more clout) to ask them for their current and possible uses of the ROW along the route.

6. The need to continue to work on a draft agreement for maintenance and enhancement agreement still exists.

Also some discussion took place on prioritizing the start on the east end of the trail in Eagle River with a goal to get it to the eventual bridge as there are many benefits for people wanting to access lodging, restaurants, and shopping along that portion and it would greatly enhance safety for pedestrians and bike traffic.

9. Letters and communication. None

10. Public Comments. None

Next meeting date agreed: Jan 26, 4:00PM ER City Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:49PM

Meeting minutes submitted by Joe Spitz

GHT's AGENDA DOCUMENT
River Trail Project Meeting
2 p.m. on Nov. 11, 2021

1. How FoRT is shaping up and how people in the pool can be engaged, informed and deployed in important roles in 2022.
2. Helping the Commission move forward after its recent 10/26 route assessment tour to set project goals for 2022 and identify roles all parties in the project need to take on to meet those goals.

Proposed recommendations to the Commission – 11-11-2021

1. Identify the roles that each municipality will have to play in ROW acquisition.
2. Consider any needed changes in how the trail can best be routed along Old Highway 70 since it will have an obvious impact on the residents who live along that stretch.
3. Continue working with Lincoln residents and others who the town board will listen to about the value of the River Trail and the need for all four municipalities to be part of the problem solving needed to best meet all the challenges of developing the trail and sustaining it as a high quality amenity in perpetuity.
4. Consider working with the County to pursue building the dedicated bike-ped-snowmobile bridge across the Wisconsin River as a standalone project.
5. Determine the short term and long term plans of all the utility companies who have utilities and property holdings along and on the proposed trail route.
6. Draft a proposed maintenance and enhancement plan for the trail that outlines the roles of each municipality, the volunteers who make up the Friends of the River Trail group, and the county.