

**Meeting Minutes of the River Trail Commission**  
(Towns of Cloverland, St. Germain and the City of Eagle River)  
**June 15, 2023 4:00 PM**  
**Eagle River City Hall 525 E Maple St, Eagle River, WI**

1. Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM public present included:

**Jeff and Ann Currie** - Cloverland  
**Robin Ginner**-Eagle River Administrator  
Jim Meirers - Lincoln (GHT)  
**Carlton Schroeder** - (GHT Sugar Camp)

Gary Meister - GHT  
Karen Margelofsky - Eagle River Revitalization  
Holly Tomlanovitch - Washington  
Mike Robillard - Zoom

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Meeting Posting was verified for all 3 participating municipalities.
4. Roll Call - **Jim Swenson** - Chairman, **Joe Spitz** - Cloverland ,**Ron Kressin**-not present due to meeting conflict. Quorum Present.
5. No objections were made to taking the agenda in any order at the discretion of Chairman
6. Swenson motioned to approve the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes, Spitz seconded. Board vote approved the minutes.
7. Bank account not discussed.

Discussion began and was principally focused on the recent Eagle River City council meeting of July 13. It was a free ranging discussion that included many of the agenda items. There were no motions made during the meeting.

J. Currie stated that as evidenced by the numerous misconceptions that were cited during the discussion how by various board and council members, that the representatives don't seem to really understand the trail plan well enough . He felt that we may need a meeting to present trail detail to ER board formally to educate them about what is the real situation regarding the trail location as it was engineered. He feels safety isn't the real issue behind the by Burkett's and Hassey's objections to the current trail plan that were voiced in the meeting. It is not less safe than the current situation for pedestrian and bikers along the corridor which requires them to be physically on Hwy 70.

Spitz observed that Tom Bierman's post meeting email suggested that some other solution needs to be explored for trail maintenance funding to remove the fear of the burden from the municipalities. The second issue he cited was the the real reason behind the lack of Lincoln involvement was stated by Hassey in his statement that his \$78,000 conflict with the DOT after the street lights (funded by a DOT grant) were turned off, will prevent him from ever supporting a grant in DOT right of way in the Town of Lincoln.

A. Currie stated that bike trails are infrastructure and that the towns need to have some "skin in the game", to show they value the asset.

It was not clear what the motion in ER Meeting, regarding the Commission holding private easements were for any private easements or just those that might be in Eagle River itself

Holly Tomlanovich explained that Burkett's emotion about bike safety stems from an incident where a sibling at age 16 hit a 10 yr old on a bike and she died. The young man never the same person and left the area due to the way he was treated by the community afterwards.

Swenson said that there is a possibility of having the speed lowered near the highway 17/70 intersection if that is a concern as they did in St. Germain for ATV/UTV traffic. He also stated that St. Germain uses their portion of room tax to support the snowmobile, ATV/UTV, and bike trails.

Meeting minutes submitted by Joe Spitz

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The need to elect representatives that are more interested in the value of pedestrian/bike trails and appreciate their value to the community was discussed. The overwhelming majority of the large group of those attending the the ER meeting, needs to be encouraged to become more involved in the government. Given the 250 people who signed the petition in support of the trail shows a broad base of support than needs to be mobilized to build support.

Karen Margelofsky spoke about how hard it is for people who are not directly involved in the trail understand the trail. Define what is on the road, what is a path, what shares the road, exactly where are the crossings ... in a very visual and clear way that they can understand. It is even confusing about what is GHT, what is the commission, what is it responsible, and to explain what is a trail. How does this compare to other "clubs like snowmobile, ATV/UTV organizations. What is the maintenance really on the bike trail anyway (wash away, what happens to the blacktop, will it be cones marking it cones like in ER downtown?)... not a lot of writing. Tomlanovitch said that there are different "models", for the different activities. " try to explain OHM dual use which is very different" " they are not allowed on snowmobile and other mortorized trails and must have their own but they carry a dual license that allows them on any public road..

Why is it where it is? Ancient Lake, obstacles and conditions. KISS principal needs to be remembered so people can understand it.

Currie reported that \$619K GHT match for segment 2 Grant is required and is confident that they will be able to do that given the interest from the donorship. Segment 3 will require \$721K more.

If we get grant and match, Cloverland we will be required to hold DOT and DNR agreements easements (near primitive boat launch) and DNR road that is there.

Jeff showed the list for Lincoln private easements and all the number of owners in Lincoln who have already agreed that they would grant easements based on GHT's contact with them.

14. None

15. None

16. July 20, 2023 at 4:00 pm Eagle River City Hall

17. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM