

RIB MOUNTAIN PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY COMMITTEE
June 19, 2018

Attendees: Chairman Andrea Larson, John Beatty and Mark Clark. Street Superintendent Scott Turner and Town Administrator Gaylene Rhoden were in attendance.

Minutes: Motion by Clark/Beatty to approve the March 15, 2018 minutes. Questioned and carried 3-0.

Reports:

Park Commission – Chair Larson reported that there was nothing at the Park Commission level for the Committee.

Metro – John Beatty discussed the City of Wausau’s Best Town for Bicycle award. This applied only to the city, not the region. The primary reason they earned the designation was due to the growth in bicycle facilities. It is also an award based on size of community.

John also mentioned that the HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) group is offering a walking audit for communities. The City of Wausau would be participating. Administrator Rhoden mentioned a walking audit was conducted in Rib Mountain in 2003, which resulted in the Rib Mountain Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee to form. Chair Larson requested Gaylene to forward the original 2003 report onto members.

The Committee thought an updated walking audit would be useful. **Motion by Clark/Beatty to move forward with a walking audit through the HEAL coalition. Questioned and carried 3-0.**

John stated that there were concerns brought up about confusion about routes along Rib Mountain Drive near the intersection of CTH NN/CTH N. It was determined that additional signage may help. Superintendent Turner said that additional bicycle/pedestrian facilities would be part of Rib Mountain Drive Phase 3 project, which would be several years down the road.

Staff Reports – Administrator Rhoden noted that a homeless man has reappeared on the 51/29 trail. There are no current ordinances to disallow people to hang out on the trail.

Superintendent Turner gave a brief update on the dog park. It was noted that a water fountain would be installed that could be accessible for trail users as well.

Granite Peak Updates – Administrator Rhoden had nothing new to report.

Trillium Trail – Superintendent Turner reported that the design is nearly complete. It was noted that there are several houses for sale on Buttercup Road, which will make it difficult for easement attainment. Scott was asked whether the trail would be paved. He stated that the only portion paved along Trillium would be from CTH N to Clover Road.

Kocourek Shelter – The shelter is complete. The Fix-it-Station needs installation. Administrator Rhoden stated that the County is coordinating the install. Chair Larson suggested a Town Beat article on how the Fix-it-Station works.

Adopt-a-Trail – Administrator Rhoden reported that there still needs to be someone to adopt

the 51/29 trail. It was also mentioned that the elementary schools performed their cleanup.

Old Business –

Updates of bike prioritization List – Superintendent Turner provided a GIS Map of the prioritization list. Members were asked to review the list and bring to the next meeting.

Bike ordinance status – The ordinances will be discussed at the upcoming July 17 Public Safety Committee meeting. John Beatty noted that the Town of Rib Mountain was ahead of the game in the region for ordinances. This is in special reference to e-bicycles.

State Park Access – Committee members received a copy of the Department of Natural Resources' letter. Committee members discussed the letter and their disappointment. **Motion by Clark/Beatty to send the Department of Natural Resource a response letter explaining the Town's intent for the signage and that the Town respected their position. Questioned and carried 3-0.** Administrator Rhoden would draft the letter.

Bike Rack – No updates.

New Business -

Bike rodeo planning – Mark Clark indicated the event will be held Thursday, July 19. The event will be open to the public. It was noted that follow-up was needed with Randy Lackman from Rib Mountain Cycles.

Future Video for Trillium- Chair Larson suggested a drone video of the Trillium trail project prior to start. This would be similar to the project done for the Park Commission. This would be further researched by staff.

Report from Members –

Chair Larson inquired about the wide cracks on the Wisconsin River Bridge trail. Scott Turner stated he was aware of it and has it scheduled for crack-fill.

Administrator Rhoden noted the significant increase in children crossing at Rib Mountain Elementary, which kept the crossing guards busy. Many parents were dropping off bikes at the school in the morning to allow their children to bike home.

Adjourn: Motion by Beatty/Clark to adjourn at 8:43 a.m. Questioned and carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date is August 16, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.

Submitted by
Gaylene Rhoden, Administrator