

RIB MOUNTAIN PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY COMMITTEE
October 18, 2018

Attendees: Chairman Andrea Larson, John Brauer, John Beatty and Mark Clark. Staff attendance included Street Superintendent Scott Turner and Town Administrator Gaylene Rhoden. Excused: Curt Deininger.

Minutes: Motion by Clark/Brauer to approve the August 16, 2018 minutes. Questioned and carried 4-0.

Reports:

Park Commission – The new dog park is open. Mark Clark and John Brauer, who live in the area, said the park is very popular and noise does not seem to be an issue.

Metro – John Beatty reported that City of Wausau will have open meetings for the public to provide feedback on the accessibility of the Wausau Center Mall. Toole Design Group has been hired to evaluate the traffic and pedestrian issues downtown.

John asked the group if they were interested in a “Bike the Drive” event. This type of event would close down public roads from vehicular traffic and allow bicycles to use the routes. Vendors would be set up as well. It was determined that Rib Mountain has adequate routes that it would not be applicable to our community.

John Beatty also reported that the County Highway Department does not have plans to resurface the CTH R trail. The cracks along the trail make it challenging for roller skiers.

John Beatty asked if the group if they were interested taking part in the Bike Federation courses. There were some who expressed interest.

John Beatty asked whether there were plans to provide bicycle/pedestrian accommodations along Rib Mountain Drive north of Robin Lane towards McCleary Bridge. This was asked by the Metro committee. It was determined that there are other alternative routes that avoid the area where no sidewalks/bike lanes exist. Administrator Rhoden mentioned that Rib Mountain Drive Phase 3 would address those concerns; however, this project is not scheduled for several years.

Staff Reports from Scott/Gaylene:

Granite Peak Updates – No report.

Trillium Trail – Superintendent Turner reported that easements were in the works. He also reported that construction cannot begin until after July 1 due to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s fiscal year.

Adopt-a-Trail – Administrator Rhoden reported that Rib Mountain Lutheran has adopted the 51/29 trail. This was approved by the Town Board this past Tuesday.

Swan Avenue – Superintendent Turner reported that the Town of Rib Mountain has received TRI-D funding for Swan Avenue. There will be three-foot shoulders added to accommodate bicyclists.

Old Business:

Updates of bike prioritization List – The group discussed various projects identified on the map.

This included the Swan Avenue project. It was suggested that Jonquil Lane be added for the Safe Routes to School. Other recommendations should be brought back to the next meeting.

Bike ordinance status – Superintendent Turner reported that Supervisor Klein provided feedback on the draft. Turner indicated he has not had the chance to review the comments from Supervisor Klein. There was a brief discussion on e-bikes and how this would be addressed in the ordinance.

Bike Rack – Curt Deininger had access to \$2,000 for new bike racks. The dog park was identified as a priority as well as near Hobby Lobby and Ulta Beauty.

Future video for Trillium –

Walking audit – It was reported that audit already took place. Staff would be meeting with the County next month to discuss the results.

New Business -

E-bikes/speed limits on trails – John Beatty shared with the Committee the demonstration put on by the local bicycle shops with e-bikes. Due to the public's ability to order bikes/kits online, it will be difficult to regulate their speeds.

Morning Glory/Lilac development and street plans – John Beatty expressed his concern over recent retail development plans that could impede bicycle traffic on Morning Glory. He stated that there are too many driveways entering Morning Glory. Administrator Rhoden informed the group that project/development plans are constantly changing. It is still unknown what development will occur. The plan for sidewalk on the eastside of Morning Glory has not changes. It was determined that staff will keep the group updated as project plans come forward.

Report from Members – No reports.

Items for Town Board – We would let the Board know that we will be working on the bicycle ordinance.

Adjourn: Motion by Beatty/Clark to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. Questioned and carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date to be determined.

Submitted by
Gaylene Rhoden, Administrator