

**Meeting Minutes:** Bike Ped Committee, Monday, March 20, 2017 at 5:30 pm, La Crescent Community Building

In attendance: Donald Smith, Cheryl Jostad, Jason Ludwigson, Jim and Carol Gehrig, Joseph and Joan Francois, Mike Cunningham, Linda Larson. Absent: Mani Edpuganti

**Agenda:**

- I. Introductions
- II. Donald Smith: Overview of Bike Ped Committee, meeting requirements and future work
- III. Local Studies Funding
- IV. Review of La Crescent Bicycle Pedestrian Plan; Bluffland Plan and Specific Routes Plan
- V. Next steps; work plans for each proposal
- VI. Next meeting: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7 pm
- VII. Adjourn

**Minutes:**

- I. Introductions were made.
- II. Donald reviewed the work of this committee, a subcommittee of the Planning Commission. It will have 2 planning commission members and 5 community individuals. Other community members may participate. Meeting will be called by the committee chair, Linda Larson. Recommendations will be made to the Planning Commission.
- III. Donald reviewed a recent funding proposal to the La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC) submitted Feb 15, 2017:

**PROPOSAL 1 Update La Crescent Bicycle Pedestrian Plan to include the 2016 Regional Bluffland Plan, \$13,000** The goal of the 2016 Blufflands Plan is ‘protected blufflands and continuous recreational trails’ on blufflands overlooking the Mississippi River Valley. A laudable goal and one embraced in La Crescent’s 2016 comprehensive plan. To implement this ‘goal’ a specific plan, outlining a route and specific actions, must be generated. We propose to work with a consultant to first understand the implications of the bluffland plan for La Crescent and second to generate a specific action plan. La Crescent’s commitment to Environmental Stewardship is one of the major focuses of the Comprehensive Plan and our current bluff trail system is the starting place for a network of trails on the western river bluffs. Winona County is interested in participating in La Crescent community and consultant meetings. This will further leverage the dollars and help the advancement of trails to the north. La Crescent Township will also have citizens engaged in the process. Specific professional assistance is required to identify and document, with maps and exhibits, the possible trails, bluffs and connections to existing trails. This work when adopted into the existing bike pedestrian plan will provide La Crescent direction to preserving and enhancing the western bluffs. This work, which will likely span decades begins with the creation of a plan and the use of the plan to gain funding—small elements at a time—until we have attained to intended goal of The Blufflands plan. La Crescent has already acquired several dedicated bluff top lands and has worked to preserve view sheds and access to other lands, thus demonstrating that this will be a good investment for the LAPC and the region. The cost for the proposal is based on specific discussions with consultants.

**PROPOSAL 2 Update La Crescent Bicycle Pedestrian Plan to conform to the Comprehensive Plan for specific routes, \$13,500** This request will focus on the HWY 6, HWY 25 and 7th Street Corridor and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South Corridor between Elm and HWY 14/61. Professional assistance is required to study various alternatives to effectively engage with Houston County and MNDOT on bike infrastructure alternatives to update the current Bike and Pedestrian Plan for the City of La Crescent. The City will be extending

sewer and water to serve homes along the newly annexed County HWY 6 and potential new residential development on HWY 6. Properties along HWY 6 may annex to the City of La Crescent pursuant to an orderly annexation agreement developed with the financial and planning support of the LAPC. This study will examine safe urban bike pedestrian connections to the Central City via HWY 25 and HWY 6 to their logical connection to Seventh Street. Existing city bike routes and sidewalks connect at 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Various on road, dedicated pathways built on the sewer excavations and road configurations will be studied.

The 'safety consideration' of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South from Elm to HWY 14/61 requires professional support. This support would provide planning along a corridor that is important to urban bike commuters to La Crosse. The LAPC goals of the Vision 2050 Plan and current conversations about transportation alternatives encourages more people to bike and walk to work. La Crescent is only 4 to 5 miles from La Crosse's major employers and easily within biking-to-work distances. 'Encouragement to ride' requires the planning of safe routes. Assistance is required for these corridors. These studies are timely and infrastructure will soon be designed or redesigned for replacement. Without updated studies future design work cannot be undertaken. This project has regional benefit and it aligned with LAPC and transportation goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to request local studies funding. These projects have matching funds and are achievable within the 2017 calendar year.

Sincerely, for the City of La Crescent, Donald Smith, Planning Commission Chair

V. The next step is to outline the plan of work for both proposals and ask for bids by consultants. This is due by Monday, March 27. When received, the work plans will be sent to the members of the Bike Ped Committee for their review and consideration. Plans will be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. Next meeting: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7 pm. Location will be announced.

VII. Adjourned at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Larson, Chair, Bike Ped Committee

