

**VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN AND VILLAGE OF CARPENTERSVILLE
FOX RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

Historic Algonquin Village Hall Second Floor

May 28, 2014

2:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1:* **Call to Order*

Steering Committee Present: Mike Armato; Jerry Culp; Bill Hicks; Cynthia Kanner; John Kremer; Tom Mammoser; Jeff Provisor; Jim Steigert; Kay Teeter; Eberhard Veit; Nancy Williamson.

Steering Committee Absent: Jodie Auliff.

CMAP Staff Present: Trevor Dick; Brian Daly.

Village Staff Present: Joe Wade, Carpentersville Assistant Village Manager; Tim Schloneger, Algonquin Village Manager; Russ Farnum, Algonquin Community Development Director; Katie Parkhurst, Algonquin Senior Planner; Ben Mason, Algonquin Senior Planner; Michele Zimmerman, Algonquin Assistant Public Works Director; Steve Ludwig; Algonquin Parks and Forestry Superintendent.

Guests Present: Chris Kempf; Gary Swick; Jennifer Becker; Morgan Bergquist; Pete Gonigam.

AGENDA ITEM 2:* **Introductions*

Trevor Dick, CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning), presented an overview of the Local Technical Assistance grant program that is funding the Fox River Corridor Study. CMAP staff will lead development of the plan, which does not require any local funding match.

All present introduced themselves, and the agency or organization they represent.

AGENDA ITEM 3:* **Project Overview*

CMAP gave an overview of the project scope, which will involve identifying existing conditions, creating a vision for the corridor, and setting out recommendations and strategies. The study will take approximately 12-months to complete, and CMAP will provide follow-up assistance for an additional two years during the implementation phase.

AGENDA ITEM 4:**Steering Committee Role**

CMAA provided a description of the role of the project Steering Committee, which will meet approximately every two months and review draft documents and plans prior to public meetings and open houses.

AGENDA ITEM 5:**Preliminary Discussion Items**

CMAA distributed a questionnaire to Steering Committee members and below is the preliminary feedback that was offered at the meeting:

- What issues or concerns do you have regarding the Fox River Corridor?
 - Poor winter/snow conditions for biking on Prairie Trail/Fox River Trail
 - Rt. 62/Algonquin Road a physical barrier for pedestrians
 - Shallow river depth
 - Flooding
 - Private control of riverfront segments
 - Dams prevent fish passage upstream and limit natural river cleansing
 - Poor water quality

- What specific projects would you like to see completed in the corridor?
 - Improve conditions for portaging around dams
 - Make trail connection from Cary to Prairie Trail
 - Increase access to Fox River from Rt. 31
 - Improve access to Raceway Woods
 - Use river activities to increase foot traffic in downtown areas
 - Organize a public survey to determine how much area residents know about or use the river corridor recreation amenities
 - Add more retail around Otto Engineering
 - Do an inventory of birds and wildlife, to draw people to river
 - Add public boat slips/piers north of the dam
 - Encourage river-oriented businesses along the Fox River
 - Create a local history and nature museum within the corridor
 - Remove the Carpentersville dam
 - Evaluate future of old Railroad Bridge north of Carpentersville dam
 - Identify sources of non-point source pollution
 - Implement green stormwater infrastructure best practices
 - Engage in habitat restoration and preservation
 - Clean up riverfront litter
 - Enact regulations for hunting on forest preserve lands
 - Create scenic vistas to the river from downtown areas
 - Establish coordinated wayfinding signage for river and bike trails
 - Control access to river to preserve natural features and habitat
 - General education and public outreach campaign to increase awareness of beauty and recreational opportunities within the corridor

- Recruit an outdoor outfitter business, specifically in Downtown Algonquin (canoe rentals, cross-country ski rentals, etc)
 - Create opportunities for camping along the river
 - Consider unique water feature, such as a waterfall or water “arch”
 - Start an “adopt-a-river” program, similar to adopt a highway for clean-up/maintenance purposes
 - Organize public festivals and nature walks in the corridor
 - Opportunity for future residential development along the river, with scenic views
 - Make general shoreline improvements, such as fixing old concrete walls
 - Make connection from Fox River Trail to Keith Andres Park in Carpentersville
 - Add paved shoulders on Rt. 31 and Huntley Road, to provide better connectivity for ped/bike from areas outside the corridor
 - Possibly add lighting in strategic areas along the Prairie/Fox River Trail to allow for trail use by bicycles after dark, especially in wintertime
 - Connect Prairie/Fox River Trail to other regional bike trails
- What are the strengths and assets of the corridor?
- Multiple long stretches of publicly-owned riverfront properties (e.g., Brunner Preserve; Fox River Bluffs)
 - Old Town Algonquin and Carpentersville offer “book-end” attractions on north and south limits of study area

AGENDA ITEM 6: **Project Next Steps**

Key Person Interviews – CMAP offered to hold individual interviews with Steering Committee members, as well as other interested stakeholders.

Public Kick-off Meeting – CMAP indicated the first public meeting would likely be scheduled for late June or July.

Project Website – CMAP stated they will work to develop a project website in the next few weeks.

Steering Committee Riverfront Tour – Gary Swick offered to supply canoes and help coordinate a tour of the river corridor. Date is to be determined.

AGENDA ITEM 7: **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ben Mason, Algonquin Senior Planner