

To:
Arden Tews
Town Chair, Town of Menasha

Municipal Complex
2000 Municipal Drive
Neenah, WI 54956

RE: Recreational Trail Use and Ongoing Maintenance

Dear Town Chair Tews,

I am a resident of the City of Menasha and am a regular user of the Town of Menasha's recreational trails. As an employee of Kimberly-Clark I have made a personal commitment to periodically bike commute to work to enhance the environment and community, but also for health and economic benefits. In 2009 and 2010, I used the Town of Menasha trail network approximately 85 days of the year, 1500 riding miles commuting to work, saved a lot of money, and burnt a lot of calories. Many of these days would not have been possible if the trail network in the town was not well maintained. This is my third year of commuting to work and having access to an excellent trail system encourages me to continue with this lifestyle change. In fact, there are now several of my coworkers that have started commuting to work on a regular basis, traveling from inside and outside the township.

My daily commute uses the trail system from Hwy 114 at Oneida street through Menasha to the Trestle Bridge and out to the trail on CB then onto trail on Winchester road. As you can see 90% of my ride consists using the trails which I appreciate to stay safe off the road edge. I consider the curb and grass buffer between my cycle and automobiles critical for day to day safety not only during the lighted summer hours but also the shortened days of winter as the weather cools and snow fly's. The trails are a great service to me and my family for enjoyment of the area.

Additionally, on my daily commutes, I routinely pass dozens of other trail users out enjoying what the trails have to offer. Thanks to those with the foresight and vision to install and maintain the extensive trail system for the benefit of all users in the area. The continued development and interconnected trails around the entire valley is a pleasure to explore and use throughout the year.

I understand in these troubling economic times, it is easy to consider reduced efforts and funding for items that do not receive regular discussion at town meetings. I urge you to note the reason trails are not regular discussion item is due to the quality and high satisfaction on the condition and maintenance of the trails. Please consider, as budgets are reviewed throughout the year to continue trail maintenance as I am one of the community members that value this resource and am highly satisfied with the yearly maintenance provided.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this matter.

Sincerely,

Dan VanderHeiden and Family
1351 Tuckaway Court
Menasha, WI 54952