

Oct. 13, 2011

Dear Members of the Common Council,

I've learned that the City may lose its chance to extend the Friendship Trail, and that the main reason is a reluctance to expend funds for it. This surprises me, as the amount of the City's portion seems to be a real bargain, considering the enhancement of Menasha as a place to live and do business - both of which tend to decrease the tax burden on individual tax payers.

□□At a community-planning event a few years ago (attended by about 90, if memory serves), the Trestle Trail came up repeatedly as something that residents love and actually brag about to friends and family. Almost always, trails tend to increase property values. The Friendship Trail is quite heavily used, and the trail provides a safe and convenient way for bike riders and pedestrians to get to HWR from the main part of the City. There is NO safe or convenient way for pedestrians or bikers to get from the City's newer development areas to HWR - or Jefferson Park, the Library, or anywhere else in town. The Menasha Conservancy, a so far almost unnoticed gem will be much better known and more accessible as the trail system is developed.

I'd like to note that individuals and organizations have been financially supportive of the trail in the past and might be again if they believed in Menasha's support of this resource. My own Rotary club made a large donation to the Trestle Trail and later paid for the lighting to the east of the Public Works yard. □□In short, I think it would be penny-wise and pound-foolish to not take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Menasha is still a great place to live, but people who buy expensive housing look for quality-of-life features of a community - parks, library, schools, waterway access ... and trails.□□

Thank you in advance for setting the tone we look for in our elected officials. By that I mean: keeping an open mind, working respectfully and collaboratively, and spending our tax dollars not only for basic services, but also to truly enhance Menasha's quality of life.

Sincerely,

□□Jack Fry□  
318 Willow Lane