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# Brown County won't plow Fox River Trail

Issue returned to committee for further study

By Tony Walter [twalter@greenbaypressgazette.com](mailto:twalter@greenbaypressgazette.com)

The Brown County portion of the Fox River Trail isn't going to be plowed this winter.

After a 40-minute debate Wednesday night on a topic several county supervisors called a waste of time, the Brown County Board voted 14-11 to send the issue back to the Education & Recreation Committee for further study.

Committee Chairwoman Kathy Johnson said her committee would take another look at the issue and attempt to establish guidelines, but she said no plowing decisions would be made this winter.

At issue was a decision to plow more than 6 miles of the trail south of Porlier Street, through Allouez and De Pere. But several supervisors argued that there is little public interest in having the trail plowed in the winter.

"I find this entire issue ridiculous," said Supervisor John Vander Leest. "It was never intended to be maintained in the winter. Let's finally kill this thing."

Supervisor Paul Zeller, a former member of the Allouez Village Board, said that during his time on the board there was just one letter on file requesting that the trail be plowed in winter.

The city of Green Bay keeps its portion of the trail from Porlier Street to Mason Street cleared, and Supervisor Tony Theisen recommended that the county seek bids to find out what it would cost to hire someone else to plow the county's portion of the trail.

Supervisor Pat Evans favored having the trail plowed, saying the taxpaying public deserved to be able to use it year-round.

County Parks Director Doug Hartman said it would cost \$17,000 to hire a seasonal employee to keep the trail cleared of snow and ice in the winter.

He said if the department was required to plow the trail with its current personnel, it would probably get to it two to three days after it completed its regular plowing duties.

Hartman said he has been contacted by about six people who have requested that the trail be plowed in winter.

Theisen said that by seeking bids now, the county would have more information about possible costs when it considered the trail issue next winter.

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