

Bedford Trails Committee

Minutes – Thursday, January 13, 2011 – 7:30pm Bedford DPW Conference Room

Attendees

Art, Michael, Peter, Yan, Hal, Bruce, Ralph, Adrienne & Kristin

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2010 minutes approved.

Art – Chairman's Report

Art would like to start planning for National Trails Day – Saturday June 4, 2011. This would also be Bedford Trails Day and the following projects should be considered to take place on June 4th: All posts/stanchions will be ready for installation; installation of kiosks, trail clean-up/bog bridge repair.

Art is interested in helping Yan find land stewards to fill vacancies for any area that does not currently have one (O'Connor CA, Lantern Lane, etc.)

Art would like to formalize the Eagle Scout connection with the Trails Committee. Potential Eagle Scout project for parking at entrance to Clark CA at Notre Dame Road. Other potential Eagle Scout projects include: Battle Flagg Road to Mongo Brook may need some stairs.

Wildwood Drive to York needs clean up of rocks, etc. (maybe stairs?)

Question on plowing snow at parking entrances to various conservation areas. Art will coordinate getting a prioritized list of parking areas that need snow removal (i.e. Minnie Reid, Concord Road, Fawn Lake).

Art plans to revisit the potential trails at MCC. He would also like to pursue extending the BCT off of the railroad bed and through the conservation areas in west Bedford. BCT has an interest in promoting walking trails.

Adrienne- presented the new versions of the regional trail maps for North, South and West Bedford in a draft format for review. The regional maps will be added to the Town website when they are finalized. Art is interested in using existing trails as part of the Bay Circuit loop, promoting local paths instead of the main route.

The Selectmen will need to formally dedicate the remainder of the BCT to the Concord Town Line and the Governor Winthrop Trail. We should also try to complete this by June 4th. Elizabeth has committed to moving this project towards completion.

Art will do a presentation at Town Meeting of the efforts of the Trails Committee and possibly the Conservation Commission. Art will create an outline for this presentation for the Committee's review and input – DPW can provide assistance.

Fawn Lake- options for restoration are being discussed by the Conservation Commission. McDonald's has an old framed picture of Fawn Lake on the wall that has a vision of what it

looked like. It would be exciting to get CPC, historical society, eagle scouts, conservation and recreation all involved.

Area A & B/Massport Trail update: There are existing trails on the site. Tom Ennis from Massport is only proposing to have trails where they already exist. There would be an access trail off Concord Road at the Town Line where the old road was. The existing fence can be altered. Massport is submitting a plan to Conservation next week and will be asked to make a presentation. The ConsCom will look at the proposal and determine which trails will be which color. Hal has collected GPS data for the existing trails on the Massport land. Bruce has a plan showing where some proposed bog bridges may be needed on the former Cerasuolo property. Need to confirm what the money allotted for this project can be used for. We want to know who maintains the trails on the Massport property. We want to know what the plan is for signage and also would there be a gate? We need to confirm who would put the trail blazes up once the decisions are finalized.

O'Connor abutters are concerned over parking area on Noreen Drive. The ConsCom's role is to maintain the wetlands protection act. The hearing for the Notice of Intent will be Wednesday, January 19th at 7:15pm.

Promote trail use & availability: discussed Bedford Village pedestrian bridge, which is currently closed due to needed repairs. Art will research if there are existing easements to allow access between Bedford Village and the Bedford Shopping Center and check the original approved plans. The legal status needs to be confirmed.

Trail Guide: Peter and Tim Gray are making progress. DPW will work with Peter to coordinate map layout for the guide.

Annual Report

Review final 2010 draft: To be presented to the Conservation Commission at the hearing on Wednesday, January 26, 2011- time not yet determined. Members of the Committee can support the Annual Report by coming to the hearing. Final draft to be sent to members by email on Friday for comments due back by Monday January 17th.

Bog Bridges

Springs Brook CA update: existing bridge repaired and re-installed by DPW. Future bridge needs will be addressed in a new NOI.

Old Reservoir update: field work completed; review map of proposed locations. Request for approval to be included with Annual Report.

Carlson CA update: proposed bog bridge status and potential new trail to view shallow marsh (add blazes?). Request for approval to be included in Annual Report.

Special Project Coordination

Rotary Grant: Ralph reported that the \$535 check will be ready next week and presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

Trail Blazing & Mapping

O'Connor CA: following NOI approvals, the Trails Committee will set up date for trail work.

Trail map review: Updates made to Altmann CA; review blazing corrections needed and possible bog bridges? Three may be needed but issue with horse access. Yan will follow up with Elizabeth.

Trail Walks & Public Education

January 1st – conducted by Ralph Hammond (York/Fawn Lake)

Ralph had 3 people show up to go walk the trail, started from VA parking lot went through York and Fawn Lake and had a pleasant experience. Ralph also got compliments on the York bog bridges.

February 5th – Dan Hurwitz (Davis Rd to Winterberry Way and Carlson)

March 5th – Art Smith (Bay Circuit Trail from Fawn Lake to MCCC)

Next meeting, ~~Thursday~~ February 17, 2011. March meeting will be back to the regular schedule - Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Annual Town Meeting is Monday, March 28, 2011. Art asked trails members to think about becoming the Chair of the Committee starting in April.