

Bedford Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, July 12, 2011 – 7:30pm Bedford DPW Conference Room

Ralph called the meeting to order at 7:38pm.

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2011 meeting minutes approved 5-0-0.

Participants

Paul, Mark, Hal, Kristin, Adrienne, Ralph, Michael, Bruce, Peter & Art

Art – Chairman's Report

Bay Circuit Trail update: Ralph and Hal attended the latest BCT meeting and noted that Bedford's portion of the trail are in good shape compared to other Towns that are struggling to pin down the different options for the continuation of the trail. Other Towns will need to work on filling the gaps.

Art & Elizabeth re-did the flags for the Governor Winthrop trail. Conservation Hearing to discuss the trails is tomorrow night, July 13th at 7:30pm.

Area A & B/Massport Trail update: Bruce walked Massport's new trail, which is definitely further away from Hanscom and follows the north side of the Bedford town line. The posts are in with the signs to stay on the trail. Work is being done on the Concord Road connection. The trail was accessed from Mary Putnam Webber CA. Hal will check the new trails with GPS to provide the data for a new trail map. The trail creates a loop.

Trail Posts update: Art is working on them.

Bedford TV Conservation cable series update: One session has been completed walking through Governor Winthrop and MCC. Elizabeth and other members of the Commission are also interested in working on this project.

Nathan Kimball-North Road access to land: update? Art and Nathan will be setting up a time to meet but that has not yet happened.

Easements/Trail Connections

Coordinate date/time for subcommittee to meet on a Thursday morning at DPW to review current mapping and generate a list of all potential trail connections where easements would be needed. The list would then be sent to the Land Acquisition Committee via the Conservation Commission.

Terry Gleason of the bike committee is interested in some trail easements as well so he should be involved. Ralph will contact Terry about attending the trail connection meeting. Mark suggested that we mark up a map showing the areas of interest to make it clear. One trail section still on the list is South Road to Elm Brook. We will set up 2 sessions. First one will be 7:30a.m. on Thursday, July 21st.

Bog Bridges

Old Reservoir: Schedule a date/time to install approved bog bridges that have been delivered inside the fence at the cemetery. There are 3 bog bridges there which need to be installed at the correct locations. A 4th bog bridge is needed, which has not yet been delivered. Mark and Peter to meet Saturday morning, July 16th at the Shawsheen Cemetery at 8am, go in from the main entrance to the back right corner near the Lexington side.

Elm Brook: bog bridge installation completed by Mark, Hal, Ralph and Art using dolly made from wheelchair donated by Bruce. DPW needs to pick up the old bog bridge that was left near South Road. Hal has pictures of the installation for the Annual Report and will send to Kristin.

Carlson CA: The new bog bridges were installed previously by the Eagle Scout. Members of the Committee need to have a site visit to ensure the bridges are placed in the correct locations.

Springs Brook CA: update from Art on discussion with Elizabeth for next steps to install needed bog bridges? No update.

Trail Guide

Review status of Trail Guide- Peter reported that Tim Gray is back on track working on the trail descriptions. Paul mentioned that his wife could help with the writing as well. Peter will coordinate between Paul's wife and Tim. Mark mentioned that his wife had done some illustrations for the Trail Guide awhile ago and we need to see if Art has those and could get them to Peter.

Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

O'Connor CA: Status update from Mark; Mark and Hal are meeting at 9am on Friday morning to GPS trails.

Survey completed at property line off of Old Billerica Road. The trail will be discussed at the Conservation Commission hearing on Wednesday, July 13th at 7:30pm.

Update on providing maps for existing map boxes: Currently on the list are map boxes at Altmann, Winterberry Way/Langone, Old Causeway, Lindau and Minnie Reid. Any others needed? Include 20 copies of map in each and add trails brochure? Fawn lake needs laminated North Bedford Regional trails map.

Review Acton's map box design drawings provided by Hal.

Mark suggested purchasing a standard mail box however there is some concern over those being stolen. They are designed for outside use and are also watertight. Mark looked at ACE hardware in Bedford but they did not have a good selection. Ideas for map boxes should be brought to the next meeting. The Conservation Commission will need a list of ideas for their review. We will need to discuss materials and cost as well as how many are needed and how they will be installed. Attaching to a kiosk where available would be one option. Paul will construct a sample map box for review at the next meeting using the Acton design drawings provided by Hal. Another option for map boxes that are not water tight would be to keep the maps in a plastic bag inside the box.

Summary of Land Stewards Meeting in April: Has report been reviewed by Elizabeth?
Update from bar code subcommittee (Michael & Bruce): Bruce reported how the barcodes would work. There are online utilities where you can type in the URL for a trail map and it will generate a barcode picture. More research is needed to make sure this process is free (i.e. no licensing costs). Bruce will look into this. The majority of the cost will just be for lamination of the barcode. The barcode could also bring up history of the trail, etc. as potentially a piece of the Trail Guide when it is completed. Updates to the website would be needed.

Trail Walks & Public Education

July 2nd – cancelled for holiday weekend

August 6th – Art to lead Massport trail walk

September 3rd – cancelled for the holiday weekend

Next meeting, Tuesday, August 9, 2011 – discuss booth for Bedford Day