

Bedford Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday January 13, 2015 – 7:30pm DPW 2nd floor conference room

Participants – Dan, Paul, Peter, Hal, Mark, Ralph, Clem, Michael, Kristin, Bruce

Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2014 approved unanimously.

Discuss draft of Trails Committee charge – hold for next meeting. Also need to discuss filling empty seat for Trails Committee to maintain 7 voting members.

Review Draft of Annual Report for 2014- Submission deadline is Thursday, January 15th for Conservation Commission Hearing scheduled on Wednesday, January 28, 2015.

There were no comments on the draft of the report narrative. The appendix will be sent for review when it is complete.

Collect Trail Map Inventory Sheets

Mark, Michael, Hal & Bruce have submitted information via email. Dan and Paul are working on their areas and will provide information electronically by the end of January.

Bog Bridges, Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

Discussed the plan to file a new Notice of Intent for bog bridges and have it include a summary of all existing bog bridges and their cumulative impact in the wetlands.

Map boxes – status update; no update

Trail posts/signs – status update; need intersection post for Lane/Buehler and entrance post for Donovan Drive. Following installation of 5 new entrance posts (2 at Lane School and 3 at Town Campus) there are still 4 or 5 more entrance posts in storage.

Huckins Farm – update on town review of easement; review bog bridge map by Clem; Clem spoke to Elizabeth and found out that the easement is with Town Counsel and we are waiting to see the final version. Paul and Kristin believe that Town Counsel may be done with the easement paperwork so we will check on the status prior to the next meeting. Discussed proposed bog bridge locations for Huckins Farm. Paul did a site visit and confirmed that 3-16ft bog bridges are needed in 2 locations adjacent to the pond (with a high spot in between), but that is Harvard land. Clem clarified that there are also 2 short sections of bog bridging needed at Huckins Farm, which were shown on a map as locations #9 and 10. The map needs to be updated to show all the locations for inclusion in the next bog bridge NOI permit. Paul has photographs of the existing bog bridges that have the old wooden sills, that can be used in the new permit filing.

Old Middlesex Rd – status update; Kristin confirmed with Michael and Paul that the draft narrative for the Annual Report accurately describes the current status of the Old Middlesex Trail. Paul noted that the trail still needs to be extended to North Road and stay within the McConnell easement. Winter weather with no snow on the ground would be a good time to

finish establishing the trail connection. Kristin will check with Elizabeth before next meeting to see if additional work on the new trail can be scheduled.

Peppergrass Brook CA – bog bridge status from field check; Paul will check to see if there are old bog bridges in place. The trail is a dead end and does not connect through to Carlson.

Donovan Drive/Governor Winthrop CA – new trail update; Michael has been talking to Adrienne about clearing some additional brush adjacent to Donovan Drive to move the trail entrance away from the abutter's lawn. Mark noted that the trail will be blazed yellow and that there are additional bog bridges needed on the existing section of the trail that should be included in the new bog bridge permit.

Proposed Bedford Circuit Trail Loop– status update; discussed summary in the annual report narrative and the next steps are to decide on a trail marker for the inner and outer loop and then get a sample made for review. Kristin reported that the easement for 35–45 Wiggins Avenue/6–8 Preston Court is still being worked on to update the plan to show the newly installed planting area and wooden guardrail near the bridge. The easement paperwork for 135 South Road is also moving forward and the latest draft was recently sent to the property owner for review. Michael noted that when the easement is finalized, an entrance post will be needed in that location on South Road. Mark asked about installation of a bridge over the ditch that crosses the existing trail near South Road. It was discussed that the bridge will be a future concern and that getting an easement is a higher priority. Mark noted that we could come up with a design using a modified version of the bog bridge that could have a railing added when needed.

202 South Road – Mark reported that the half posts were removed and rocks were installed in their place. The entrance posts are still in place. Michael and Ralph noted that blazes in various places have been bent recently.

Trail Guide

Review status of Trail Guide – Peter reported that progress is ongoing and that some new sections have been added to the beginning covering the blazing scheme and other suggestions. He has also added pages for the new Massport and Town Campus maps. The book is nearing physical completion and he will now be able to get a price from printing company. Peter said that he still needs a summary written for both Massport and Town Campus trail maps for the guide. For Clark and Little Meadow, Ralph volunteered to start working on a draft write up and also for Town Campus. A sample from the Trail Guide will also be included in the appendix for the Annual Report. Michael noted that Fawn Lake map needs blazing updates so that map should not be used in the report. Michael and Mark will confirm the existing conditions at Fawn Lake so the trail map can be updated accordingly. Michael also noted that old bog bridges that were removed in November still need to be picked up by DPW.

Updates from other Committees

Adrienne is attending CPC meeting where funding requests are being discussed, including the Trails Committee request to fund pedestrian bridges at Washington Street and Lantern Lane.

New Business/Events

Ralph distributed map brochures for the Sudbury, Assabet & Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council. Ralph noted the library has a display of river photographs for anyone interested.

Mark noted that the Bridge Street access to Wiggins Ave needs bog bridge on the trail between the Shawsheen River and the office parking lot. This may need to be addressed with the new easement and will also need to be included in the new bog bridge permit.

Trail Walks & Public Education

Trail T-shirt option; discussed getting back to the design for t-shirts, maybe to just include block letters that say Bedford Trails. Ralph noted a possible vendor in Watertown, Paul noted a vendor in Lexington and Mark noted that Vistaprint does t-shirts too so we can work on getting a price from a few vendors.

January 3rd – recap from Paul; Minuteman newspaper photographer attended the walk at Altmann. Paul met 6 people at the library and had 5 more join on Dudley Road.

February 7th – needs a leader; Bruce may be able to lead the walk.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 28th, 2015 7pm in the Selectmen's meeting room at 7pm to attend the Conservation Commission hearing with a meeting to immediately follow in the conference room.

**** UPDATE****: Due to cancellation of the Conservation Commission hearing in January, the Trails Committee plans to attend the February 25th hearing in the Selectmen's meeting room with the February Trails meeting to immediately follow in the lower level conference room at Town Hall.

Meeting minutes recorded by Kristin Dowdy and approved on February 25, 2015.