

## Bedford Trails Committee

**Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, February 25, 2015** – 7:00pm at the Conservation Commission hearing in Selectmen's meeting room at Town Hall, with short meeting to follow in lower level conference room.

**Participants** – Michael, Mark, Paul, Clem, Dan, Jim, Adrienne, Kristin and Marlies Henderson (Bay Circuit Trails representative)

**Meeting Minutes** – Tuesday January 13, 2015 minutes approved, with minor change noted by Mark that t-shirts will not be just for trail leaders but for everyone.

**Representative from Bay Circuit Trail** – Marlies Henderson has been working with Alan French of the Bay Circuit Trail to promote trail use in Billerica. She has updated maps and the website and worked with other surrounding towns to open communication regarding the Bay Circuit Trail and increase awareness. The Bay Circuit is now under Appalachian Mountain Club and the Trustees of Reservations. The AMC is available for work parties. In Concord they took a group of 20 people and did trail brushing to fix a portion of the BCT. If we have a project, we should contact Marlies or Beth Gula to set up a trail brushing work party. She also noted that there will be a new BCT logo on round trail markers that will be available later in the spring. We can keep the markers we have but if there are any needing replacement, we can use the new ones. Mark has a supply of the standard rectangular blazes and has used them to maintain the portions of the BCT in Bedford, including Middlesex Community College. The BCT goal is to have more uniform blazing. There is a maintenance manual from DCR that includes bog bridges. Marlies will send a copy to Bedford.

There will be maintenance training opportunities later this year. Since AMC took over leadership, there are color template maps to post on kiosks. They have room for trail specific information. We can send information and they will add, laminate and send back to us. There is emergency information included. The BCT kiosk information will be more standardized. Jim noted the BCT markers are very irregular on the southern portions. Marlies noted it would be a good project to walk the Bedford portion to note missing markers. Marlies is also working to promote the extension of the trail from the Narrow Gauge at the Bedford/Billerica line further into Billerica.

### Annual Report

Discussed recap of Annual Report presentation to Conservation Commission. Presentation went well and report looks great. Going forward, we need to make sure the next bog bridge notice of intent will need to include information on maintenance. As noted above, it may be possible to adapt the BCT/AMC version of the bog bridge maintenance manual.

Distributed draft of Trails Committee charge and highlighted that it notes 7 members with no constraints on cross-membership with other committees. Mark suggested sending a soft copy for members to provide comments.

## Bog Bridges, Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

Collect Trail Map Inventory Sheets – after snow melt, Dan, Paul and Jim can do their inventory.

Map boxes – status update; Paul still has about 4 in stock. He is going to see about making a prototype for a map stand, with a plastic cover on a trail map, mounted to a post for locations without a map box or kiosk.

Trail posts/signs – status update; schedule installation of entrance post for Donovan Drive – hold for spring. Also consider intersection post on Governor Winthrop for yellow trail connection to Donovan Drive.

Huckins Farm – update on review of easement; review bog bridge map by Clem. Adrienne noted that Town Counsel requested some revisions to the map that were done by Chris at DPW. The revised map was sent out and now we are waiting for additional information. Clem described the map notes bog bridges needed on Harvard Land at locations #11 and 12. It was noted that there are no signs along the trail marking where the property line is between Huckins and Harvard. It was recalled that Ralph's contact with Harvard had previously given permission for maintenance although there is nothing in writing, and it is unlikely we will be able to obtain anything in writing. Therefore, the new bog bridge NOI will include the proposed bog bridges on the Huckins side, but should remove locations #11 and #12. Clem also noted locations #7 and 8 were already removed from the map, since the trail can be moved further up the hill to avoid needing boardwalks. A short section of bog bridging is still needed at location #6 and will be included in the new NOI.

Old Middlesex Rd – status update; The eagle scout has finished his part of the project and Elizabeth is planning to contact a surveyor about getting the McConnell easement widened so the Trails committee could complete the remainder of the project. This work will require a new filing.

Peppergrass Brook CA – bog bridge status from field check; hold for snow melt.

Donovan Drive/Governor Winthrop CA – new trail status update; blazing? bog bridges needed? Michael noted that he moved the trail entrance but it's now under snow. Mark noted the trail is not yet blazed but will be yellow. The 2<sup>nd</sup> bog bridge on the yellow access trail will need to be included in the next bog bridge notice of intent.

Proposed Bedford Circuit Trail Loop– status update for trail marker and easements; note that 35/45 Wiggins Ave easement may need bog bridge on trail between Shawsheen River and office parking lot. Hold for future meeting with Ralph to continue discussions on design of a trail marker rather than spray paint on the pavement.

## Trail Guide

Review status of Trail Guide – summary needed for Clark/Little Meadow, Massport Area and Town Campus. Confirm updates to Fawn Lake trail map. Kristin reported that Elizabeth wrote a trail summary for Clark/Little Meadow, and Concord Road/Massport areas. The only area missing is Town Campus. DPW and Elizabeth are doing one last round of edits to complete the draft of the guide.

Discussed needing to review Fawn Lake map to make sure blazing in the field matches the map. Kristin will email PDF to Michael and Mark to confirm.

### **Updates from other Committees**

Adrienne reported that CPC voted four projects that will be on the Town Meeting warrant— Washington Street bridge was one of them – but only Washington Street and not Lantern Lane since there was not a lot of money available for projects. Paul asked what our involvement will be if it gets approved. Adrienne noted that we would be hiring a consultant to design the bridge to meet all applicable regulations and there will be filing with Conservation Commission. The Trails committee would also need to blaze a trail from the bridge to the railroad bed.

### **New Business/Events**

Tree removal on conservation land – It was noted that Elizabeth should be contacted if there are any trees on conservation land needing removal. Michael noted he will contact her again about York.

Workshop for wetland plant ID in winter – Kristin said Elizabeth would be willing to hold a workshop for wetland plant ID in winter if anyone is interested. The location would be near the VA hospital on the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail. There was some interest for when the snow melts – hold for spring.

### **Trail Walks & Public Education**

Trail leader T-shirt option; discussed having the shirts be royal blue with white lettering saying “Bedford Trails” on the front upper left corner and “Take a Hike” on the back. We will plan to order enough shirts to give out to volunteers. Kristin will get a quote for next meeting.  
February 7<sup>th</sup> – recap from Dan; Bruce and Dan parked at Lavender Lane and walked Massport trails. At the library 2 other walkers showed up but did not have snow shoes so did not join.  
March 7<sup>th</sup> – needs a leader; Dan will lead

**Next meeting:** Decided to set next meet for April 14, 2015, 7:30pm at DPW 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room since the March meeting would only be 2 weeks away. Members should plan to attend Annual Town Meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*Meeting minutes recorded by Kristin Dowdy and approved on April 14, 2015.*