

Bedford Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 14, 2015 – 7:30pm DPW 2nd floor conference room

Participants – Mark, Dan, Clem, Michael, Hal, Steve, Bruce, Peter, Chip, Adrienne, Kristin

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday February 25, 2015; approved unanimously with changes noted to Huckins Farm section by Clem.

Discuss final draft of Trails Committee charge and plan to fill vacant spot for Trails Committee to maintain 7 voting members. Reviewed paper copy of latest draft and Michael explained that the goal of the charge is to establish the roles, responsibilities and membership of the Trails Committee. The membership will be 7 people with a 4 as the majority. Mark, Hal and Dan suggested that the introduction paragraph should remove the note about creation of the committee since it is not clear or needed under purpose. It was agreed and voted that the draft charge amended as noted above be submitted to Conservation Commission for their review.

Bog Bridges, Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

Discuss trail map to show Two Brothers Rocks & Billerica CA along Concord River – Mark pointed out that when he walked with Marlies from the Bay Circuit Trail, they started at Concord River crossing at Route 4 and walked towards Two Brothers' Rocks and they found some blue blazes as they crossed into Bedford. He was not aware of this trail or who blazed it with the standard blue discs near the river. The blazes were not in Billerica. This trail should probably be shown as a brown trail on our map but the current extent of the Altmann trail map would not show the area. Mark and Hal will GPS the trail so it can be shown on a map for future review and discussion.

Review Bay Circuit Trail Map for kiosks – Marlies Henderson from Billerica had emailed a sample of a map that can be placed on existing kiosks in Bedford located along the Bay Circuit Trail. Committee agreed this would be acceptable and we can provide Marlies with a count of how many we need so she can give us a laminated map to use. Also discussed the new blazes that the Bay Circuit Trail is working on. Mark still has a supply of the current blazes and Marlies mentioned that they can still be used if needed.

Discuss Trail Map Inventory Sheets – areas that remain; Dan will submit his inventory information for Carlisle Road area and Langone. Discussed that Shawsheen River CA should not be improved with an entrance post until work on Middlesex Turnpike is complete with the addition of the small parking area. Areas still needing an inventory are Altmann, Clark/Little Meadow, Concord Rd/Massport area, Minnie Reid and O'Connor. Paul and Ralph were not in attendance but may have volunteered to do some of those. O'Connor and Clark/Little Meadow have no bog bridges and signage is new so DPW will confirm those. Check with Paul on what he may have done, most likely Altmann and Minnie Reid. DPW will also confirm Massport area and note entrance stanchions. Michael will check Hartwell Town Forest.

Map boxes – status update; Hold for next meeting.

Trail posts/signs – status update; schedule installation of entrance post for Donovan Drive; need to confirm next meeting how many posts Paul has left. The entrance post for Donovan Drive will need DigSafe and it will be obvious where it should go. An intersection post is also needed to at the new trail to Donovan Drive from Governor Winthrop.

Huckins Farm – update on review of easement; Clem reported that Elizabeth and Andreas attended the sub-committee meeting on March 26th and that Elizabeth had a new version of the easement that was significantly different from the previous one that was reviewed last summer. This new version from Bedford's Town Counsel will need to be reviewed by the board at Huckins Farm and they may need to hire a lawyer since the new version is not as simplified as the old. Some comments were made and questions answered at the sub-committee meeting and Elizabeth will have some changes made to the document before sending to Huckins Farm. Clem also noted that the map was changed and made simpler without the previous letter designations. Yan had also attended the meeting and was in support of getting things finalized.

Old Middlesex Rd – status update; hold for next meeting.

Peppergrass Brook CA – bog bridge status from field check; need to check with Paul. Michael may do a field check.

Donovan Drive/Governor Winthrop CA – final photographs needed to apply for Certificate of Compliance; DPW will work on this task. The trail has not yet been blazed yellow but Mark can take care of it.

Proposed Bedford Circuit Trail Loop– status update for trail marker and easements; hold for future meeting to review options. Adrienne noted that Page Place condominiums is working with the Town to abandon the existing well on their property and one of the conditions that the Town will ask for is a formal easement to go across the back of their field to make a formal trail connection. Mark said the important part of that cut-through is where it goes out to Route 62. It will provide a connection to the Springs Brook trails. The trail would not need any bog bridges.

Bog bridge NOI – Kristin reported the locations on the list include Huckins Farm, Governor Winthrop, Old Middlesex Road, the Massport area and town land near Lavender Lane and the Town Campus trail around the existing pond. The bog bridges on Harvard land will not be included in the permit.

Trail Guide

Review status of Trail Guide – Peter reported that we have made great progress on the guide with regard to the updates to the narrative. He met with Color Co in Cambridge and made some more decisions on the materials for the guide book. He got price quotes for 250 copies at \$8.38 each, 500 copies at \$6.79 each and 750 copies at \$6.63 each, all of which are under the \$10 per copy that we had been planning on. The next step is to get a final version of all the maps, including an updated version of the overall town map showing all the areas, which will be a fold out page so it's easier to use and won't have a space in the center for binding. Once the final draft is ready, Color Co will print a proof copy for our review. When all the copies are printed and ready for distribution we could see if they can be sold at DPW, Conservation, and

maybe Depot Park. They could also be sold at Bedford Day. The money from sales would be put into a revolving fund with the money used for printing costs. For the first round of orders we will probably get 250. The dimensions of the book are 6.5 inches tall by 5.25 inches wide. Also noted we should check if the binding could be blue instead of black.

Updates from other Committees

No updates from other committees.

New Business/Events

Mark discussed that he and Michael had a thought about making some changes to the blazing at Altmann to have the blue trail be re-routed to bring you to the brown trails to Two Brothers Rocks, making it longer and also eliminating the double blaze of blue and orange on the short section of trail that connects to Huckins Farm.

Trail Walks & Public Education

Trails T-shirts option - Kristin showed the sample blue t-shirt and discussed the wording on the front and back with the print proof of the actual font. They would say "Bedford Trails" on the front and "Take a Hike" on the back. The order will be for 95 shirts with a mix of sizes. Mark will send information about a t-shirt process so we can check if the wording will be embedded in the fibers of the shirt. Vote to spend \$680.49 for the t-shirt order. Shirts will not be sold, they will be handed out for volunteers. Approved unanimously. DPW will put in the order.

March 7th & April 4th - recap from Dan; Only one person showed up in March but was not prepared to walk in the snow. There was no one for April. Someone mentioned to Michael that trails at Old Reservoir were groomed, presumably by a resident with a snowmobile.

May 2nd - needs a leader; Bruce may be available, send email when it gets closer.

June 6th - needs a leader/National Trails Day; hold for May meeting.

Next meeting: discuss meeting on Wednesday, May 13th following the Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan meeting at Town Hall multi-purpose room, 7pm. Approved unanimously.

The wiki maps are available on the website for residents to add feedback on the recommendations by the consultant.

Meeting minutes recorded by Kristin Dowdy and approved on May 13, 2015.