

Bedford Trails Committee

Minutes – Tuesday, September 16, 2014 – 7:30pm DPW 2nd floor conference room

Participants: Michael, Dan, Paul, Hal, Mark, Bruce, Chip, Ralph, Clem, Adrienne, Kristin

Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2014 & July 8, 2014 (no quorum); Michael moved to approve meeting minutes, seconded and approved.

Proposed Eagle Scout project – install a kiosk at MCC parking lot for Wilderness & Fawn Lake CA; Adrienne noted the Eagle Scout candidate is Stephen Devellis and he is planning to use the plans from Art Smith and go to the Conservation Commission for approval to install a kiosk off the edge of the MCC parking lot that was noted in the 2013 Annual Report. It will be located adjacent to the yellow trail near the existing entrance posts.

Bog Bridges, Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

Town Campus – schedule work approved in RDA; Mark gave Ralph the lettering for the intersection post to the school field. Mark needs materials and will coordinate with Paul and DPW for delivery and date for construction.

Map boxes – status update; Paul needs the updated maps to laminate for the trail box – O'Connor will be next and then Hartwell Town Forest and Paul noted Elizabeth wants a map box on Davis Road for Pine Grove Farm; Minnie Reid, Altmann and Huckins Farm are done. Trail posts/signs – status update; new public trail markers; Mark noted that there are 4 posts being installed at Old Rez. Mark needs a 4x4x12 and rebar for where the orange loop comes off the bridge by the dam. Mark noted that the new trail on North Road to Lane School needs an entrance post and should note to Lane School and maybe a map box too. Mark talked to Elizabeth about eliminating the section of trail west of Winterberry Way that heads north to Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge but then leads to nowhere. Also discussed the need for an entrance post at the part of the trail that will remain and head south, connecting to Pine Grove. DPW will confirm the posts that are approved to be installed from the 2013 Annual Report.

Huckins Farm – status update on easements; Clem reported that bog bridge ramps were added to each end of the bog bridges on Cozy Lane and the 2 bog bridges on the main blue trail. Clem and Hal cleared some downed trees. Clem discussed the easement paperwork with Elizabeth and reviewed the approved map and she needed to fill in the blanks on the agreement and then have it presented to the Conservation Commission for approval. Clem has worked on brushing the new trail. Huckins Farm sign will say "Trail Not Suitable for Horses".

The next bog bridge NOI will need to include the proposed bog bridges at Huckins Farm, Town Campus, and Old Reservoir. DPW will review any other areas needing bog bridges. Mark also noted that there are bog bridge repairs and changes needed in Wilderness Park. Pick a day for site walk. Discussed that we need an inventory on how many bog bridges are in place and their condition and what style they are.

Old Middlesex Rd – status update; Paul talked to Elizabeth and she needs to get permission from a neighbor for another easement to avoid some bog bridges. The owner of the parcel south of Old Middlesex Road will consider granting an easement to the Town but also wants some downed trees removed from the microburst. Michael noted that the last time he checked, the trail was about halfway down Old Middlesex Road.

Springs Brook CA – proposed boardwalk design; Adrienne reported that the Committee needs to discuss the option to propose funding from CPC for a boardwalk at Springs Brook CA for spring Annual town meeting with an approximate length of 1,000 feet and an additional 100 feet for a viewing area at the Spring Brook. Paul talked to Dan Sullivan in Code and determined that helical piles cost approximately \$150 each including engineering design. DPW will work on getting an estimate to include on the application form for CPC funding to be voted on at the next meeting.

Job Lane/Buehler CA – status update; schedule trail building as approved in RDA – confirm with Elizabeth before starting. DPW will schedule site walk with Elizabeth and Mark. Ralph walked over to Buehler and noted that the water was really low and one of the ponds was almost dried up.

Donovan Drive/Governor Winthrop CA – Order of Conditions/easement status; Adrienne reported that the property owner now has a copy of the Order of Conditions and we hope to wrap this up in a few weeks.

Proposed Bedford Circuit Trail Loop– status update; Ralph showed a demonstration for having a painted blue circle with 2 bars for the inner and one bar for the outer.

Harvard pond – status update; Paul and Clem will do a site visit.

Proposed trail on US FWS land from Old Causeway Rd to Carlisle Rd boat landing; Ralph talked to Libby Herland about this trail and noted that it was an existing trail. Since the trail exists it seemed to Ralph that there would not be an issue with Fish and Wildlife. Clem and Ralph will revisit this trail and mark it to then collect GPS data, show it on a map and send it to Libby for review.

Proposed trail for Irene Road Subdivision – Paul noted the proposed trail on the subdivision map.

Hal noted that the map for the landlocked parcel in Burlington includes numbers to show intersections on a busy map and the numbers are posted on trees. This may be something to look into for any Bedford trail maps that are confusing in the field.

Trail Guide

Review status of Trail Guide and updates to Trail Maps; Peter noted that the cover is just a placeholder and that the dimensions will be 5.5 inches wide and 6.5 inches tall. Ralph noted that one printer option is DSA printing, and the Rotary president Kevin. Discussed possible cost of the Trail Guide and consensus was \$10 per book seems reasonable. Clem asked what is the objective of the guide? Peter noted that having the Guide be free makes people think it has no value. Dan noted if the objective is to maximize distribution and minimize profit, then maybe the Trails Committee subsidizes the cost. Peter wanted to know how many would we

want to order? Peter noted that all the source files are being kept on the web at "get hub". Peter wanted to know who is the point of contact for budget approval and final design of the book. Peter will get budget numbers together to be voted on at the next meeting. Mark has provided information to add to the Guide on how trails are blazed and who to contact if you encounter problems on the trails.

Updates from other Committees

Land Acquisition Committee – status update; no update.

New Business/Events

Recap of River Steward Award Ceremony; not discussed.

Bedford Day – Saturday, September 20th; DPW is hosting Toole Design in their booth to promote public feedback on the Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan. There will be a meeting in November for additional public input that will be publicized.

Volunteer Coordinating Committee is reviewing the details of the Trails Committee and their charge and number of voting members. Mark has some input and if/when a meeting is set up to review the make-up of the Trails Committee.

Ralph talked to Art about having a day where people can walk the Bay Circuit Trail from Middlesex Community College to Concord and have a shuttle to take people back and forth to their cars – maybe for National Trails Day on first Saturday in June.

Trail Walks & Public Education

Trail leader T-shirt option; Bedford Trails on the back, color to be Bedford blue with white words. Have the circular marker on the front left.

August 2nd – walk was cancelled

September 6th – recap of Jim's walk; they had one family and went to Old Causeway to Two Brothers and it was a little overgrown but overall in good shape.

October 4th – needs a leader; Paul will lead – meet behind the library at 9:45am.

Next meeting is October 14th

Meeting minutes recorded by Kristin Dowdy and approved on October 14, 2014.