

Bedford Trails Committee

Minutes – Tuesday, October 14, 2014 – 7:30pm DPW 2nd floor conference room

Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2014 approved

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

Community Preservation Committee – discuss and finalize funding request for projects over the next 6 years

Boardwalks: Springs Brook, Carlson, Winterberry Way, Hartwell Town Forest

Foot Bridge: Lantern Lane and Washington Street

Fix Dike at Buehler Pond

Adrienne reported an estimate for a boardwalk at Springs Brook CA would be approximately \$310,000 for 1100 feet, 6 feet wide on timber driven piles, in order to build it from the finished section and avoid heavy equipment damaging any wetlands on existing trails. Discussed the qualifying categories for CPC funded projects: open space, affordable housing, historic preservation, recreation and administrative/general reserve. The proposed Trails Committee projects fall under both open space and recreation. Mark mentioned a sidewalk connection from the new trail entrance at North Road to Lane School up to Minnie Reid Conservation Area. Peter asked about a sidewalk on Davis Road. Both of these potential projects fall more under Transportation Advisory Committee than Trails Committee. Mark mentioned the viewing platform at the western end of Fawn Lake but since Fawn Lake is currently being studied for future improvements, it could all be combined into one project.

For Huckins Farm, the previously proposed boardwalks would be better suited with connected bog bridges, east of Dudley Road, across from Cozy Lane and heading north. This area will be included in the next Notice of Intent for bog bridges.

Final Project Proposal List:

FY'16: \$350,000 Springs Brook Conservation Area Boardwalk

FY'17: \$10,000 Operating Budget

FY'18: \$300,000 Washington Street & Lantern Lane Pedestrian Bridges

FY'19: \$350,000 Hartwell Forest Boardwalk, crossing Hartwell Brook

FY'20: \$100,000 Winterberry Way and Carlson Conservation Area Boardwalks

FY'21: \$80,000 Dike Repair at Buehler

Dan moved to approve the list, seconded by Mark. Voted and approved unanimously.

Bog Bridges, Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

Town Campus – schedule work approved in RDA; Paul will get materials from Concord Lumber and deliver to the site and coordinate schedule with Mark.

Map boxes – status update; Paul needs maps for the front of the map box – Lindau and O'Connor are next.

Trail posts/signs – status update; post for Winterberry Way – confirm blazing scheme; Ralph has 7 blank ones waiting for lettering. Ralph and Clem are working together on posts for Huckins Farm. Winterberry Way blazing scheme changes – update trail map to show orange loop crosses the road, and change the yellow portion to a brown, unblazed trail towards the Wildlife Refuge. Mark noted that Elizabeth wanted a post on either side of Winterberry Way; one was put in a while ago and one is needed in the trail easement. DPW will take care of calling Digsafe. The post in the trail easement will just be for orange blazes to show which way the trail goes. Mark will install the post and needs some of the spikes from Paul.

Huckins Farm – status update on easements; Town Counsel may still be reviewing, DPW will check with Elizabeth.

Old Middlesex Rd – status update; Kristin reported that Elizabeth is looking at getting an easement for all of Old Middlesex Road from both abutting homeowners and has contacted a surveyor for a price.

Springs Brook CA – proposed boardwalk design; discussed above.

Job Lane/Buehler CA – status update; Mark completed the trail work but it is not yet blazed. Ralph completed the intersection post for the new 4-way intersection. Entrance posts are still needed on either end of the main trail. DPW will get site photographs and GPS the final trail layout to update the map.

Donovan Drive/Governor Winthrop CA – Order of Conditions/easement status; Adrienne reported that the owner is planning to sign the easement when the property sells.

Proposed Bedford Circuit Trail Loop– status update; Talked briefly about 35-45 Wiggins Avenue easement and 135 South Road easement; hold for future meeting. The layout for the proposed easement at 35-45 Wiggins Avenue needs to be revised to show the newly installed planted area near the connection to Bridge Street.

Proposed trail on US FWS land from Old Causeway Rd to Carlisle Rd boat landing – There has not been any discussion with Libby. Discussed if there is a way to know if the trail was existing? Paul will check if the trail is shown on an old map done by Daisy of the Pickman/Huckins Farm land. He will send the map to Kristin for review at a future meeting but it may not have a trail that goes to the boat landing. Paul inspected the beaver pond and the old drain is blocked. He noted there is lots of wildlife living there so it's probably best to leave it alone for now and revisit maybe replacing the existing bog bridges.

Trail Guide

Review status of Trail Guide and updates to Trail Maps – Reviewed 5 cover photo options for the Trail Guide. Peter noted he had updated the cover to have a white border and worked on using text that is more readable. Everyone had 2 votes and the favorites were #1 and #5. Discussed that the back cover will not have a photo. Had a second vote to pick between #1 and #5 – and majority chose photo #1 (taken at Elm Brook CA). Photo #5 was taken at Old Reservoir and included an intersection post. Mark suggested that the photo used for the cover should have a blaze added to a tree using photoshop.

Peter noted he still needed a write up for Town Campus and he will contact Ralph with a few questions. Kristin will check with Elizabeth on the status of a write up for the Massport/West Bedford trail map and Clark/Little Meadow CA.

Updates from other Committees

Land Acquisition Committee – status update; no updates.

New Business/Events

Recap of Bedford Day; Paul dropped off a sign post with the prototype map box and it was filled with the town wide overall trail map. This was a successful way to distribute info to the public about the Trails Committee and we will do the same set up next year.

Trail Walks & Public Education

Trail leader T-shirt option – not discussed

October 4th – recap of Paul's walk; Paul had 1 person who learned about the trails after getting a map at Bedford Day. He went all around Huckins Farm.

November 1st – needs a leader; Dan will lead and plan on Hartwell Town Forest since it's been dry.

December 6th – needs a leader; Bruce may be able to lead – confirm in November

Next meeting in November conflicts with Veteran's Day. Discuss changing date to Wednesday November 12th – Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan Meeting at Town Hall 7:00pm
Agreed to change the Trails Committee November meeting to overlap the Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan Open House.

Meeting minutes recorded by Kristin Dowdy and approved on November 12, 2014.