

# Bedford Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 11, 2011 – 7:30pm Bedford DPW Conference Room

**Participants:** Art, Mark, Dan, Michael, Ralph, Yan, Bruce, Adrienne & Kristin

## Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2011

**Discuss change of Committee Chair** and Conservation Commission liaison: Tim will be coming to the November meeting.

## Eagle Service Project

Update on Concord Road kiosk construction: The kiosk construction began this past weekend but is not yet complete. Maps and markers will need to be added.

## Chairman's Report

Recap of 7/13 Conservation Hearing to discuss Governor Winthrop and O'Connor trails with the abutters. Gov. Winthrop trail has been flagged and the work needs to be scheduled. Mark is available to do the work. O'Connor abutters attended a meeting and are all set for now.

Bay Circuit Trail update: Discuss additional BCT markers needed at the intersection of Great Road and Springs Road. There are BCT markers in that area on telephone poles. Art will check it out.

Area A & B/Massport Trail update: Discuss Massport Trail Dedication Ceremony. Art reported that the ceremony went well. Art sent his written speech if anyone would like to read it.

Trail Posts update: Art will be giving the trail posts and blazes to Paul.

Bedford TV Conservation cable series update: Art did a tour of the BCT from Fawn Lake to Gov Winthrop to MCC and then Don Corey came to the studio and he and Art had a question and answer. It was broadcast over the weekend. Eileen from the Bedford Minuteman wants a monthly article about trails/conservation in Bedford. There can be many authors, many subjects...approximately 300 words. She would like to work with the Committee and the Land Stewards. Art was to let each committee know and Eileen would follow up. It would be great to have the article run in the paper on the Thursday before the Saturday monthly trail walk.

Nathan Kimball-North Road access to land update: Art met with the Kimballs. The homestead property is not completely tied to the Kimballs but Art will continue to pursue the potential for future access on the property for trail connections.

Land Stewards reports are due Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.

BCT- Art wants to have the Selectmen accept the remainder of the BCT from Springs Road to the Concord line.

## Easements/Trail Connections

Review DPW map of proposed connections and prioritized list: Adrienne summarized the latest status and the Committee reviewed the draft map and the prioritized list of easements. Mark suggested that the list be organized into which easements will need improvements such as bog bridges that cost money. We could assess each area to know what the buildability value is for each area. It would be important to note the proposed use, if it's for safe routes to school, etc. We can add notes to the list to call out which ones are also part of the safe routes to school. There is a consultant assessing the safe routes to Lane School and it is part of a grant. The Committee would like to highlight the following connections: 23, 24, 25 (bridge at #25 is in disrepair), 26. MCC is excited about the possibility of expanding their trails. Update spreadsheet to note that Washington St. over Elm Brook already has the easement in place. There is concern over the Lindau CA deadline approaching in 2013 when the land may revert from conservation to municipal land. Ralph made a motion to accept the priority list as amended and it was seconded by Michael. Motion passed 5-0-0.

### **Bog Bridges**

Old Reservoir: update on installation of approved box bridges at locations #3, 4 and 5. (Mark, Paul and Dan on October 9<sup>th</sup>) Mark reported that the remaining bog bridges were installed with the exception of the arch bridge and they are working on a design to bring before the Commission for approval.

Springs Brook CA: update from Art on discussion with Elizabeth for next steps to install needed bog bridges. Another conversation and possibly a site visit with Elizabeth would be a good next step.

Carlson CA: update on completing effort to relocate bog bridges that were in a dry area on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The Committee reviewed the bog bridge status and moved a few that were needed in a different location but there are more that need to be moved and possibly more that may need approval for installation. More man power was needed to finish this task and a schedule should be made. Art will ask the boy scouts if they can help.

Massport: Review proposed Trail Improvements map – hold for next meeting.

Currently Huckins Farm has beaver issues causing flooding near the causeway from Minnie Reid where the trail is not in the easement.

We need to schedule another bog bridge building day since there is one bog bridge left. There are no set areas as of now but we want to have a stock available for storage in the VA garage.

### **Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance**

Map boxes: Review Paul's latest sample and discuss plan for bringing to the Conservation Commission for approval: Yan reported there are approximately 12 map boxes existing now, made of cedar. Hold review of map box for next meeting since Paul was not in attendance.

Summary of Land Stewards Field Reports from April and work proposed for Trails Committee: There are 4 trees and large branches down at Elm Brook. The Stewards meeting is October 20<sup>th</sup> so we will wait for the results of the latest reports to be reviewed and see what trail work might be needed.

Status of laminated maps at various kiosks: Review summary of kiosk status by DPW. Discussed how to avoid maps being stolen; kiosks may need plexiglass. If you had  $\frac{3}{4}$ " staples it could go through the  $\frac{1}{2}$ " cork and into the wood, which may be at least better than the tacks.

Trail maintenance: Ralph reported that from Narrow gauge there is a rough path to Lane School. As part of safe routes to school, the path needs improvement on the steep hill to the playground including trimming. The students walk their bikes but it needs to be more user friendly. Mark suggested a set of stairs or a drainage ditch may be an option. Mark will take a look at it with Ralph on Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The O'Connor parking area needs to be constructed at the R.O.W. now that the truck has been moved.

### **Trail Guide**

Review status of Trail Guide: hold for next meeting. The summary write ups should include information from the Conservation website.

### **Annual Report**

Discuss plan to collect information for inclusion in the 2011 Annual Report including work completed over the past year and future work desired for 2012.

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

Discussed that the walks need additional advertising since residents are not participating. May want to have announcements at the schools.

October 1<sup>st</sup> – Paul Marcus led the walk and Dan & family were the only participants but they had a nice time at the new Massport trails.

November 5<sup>th</sup> – cancelled.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dan Hurwitz

**Next meeting, Tuesday, November 8, 2011**