

Bedford Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes – **Tuesday**, December 13, 2011 – 7:30pm Bedford DPW Conference Room

Participants: Ralph, Tim, Hal, Mark, Yan, Dan, Peter, Paul, Bruce, Adrienne & Kristin

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2011

Ongoing Projects

Trail Post update: recap of installation on December 4th: The post installation was successful and Paul added a new post to replace the missing post at South Road.

BCT update on dedication by Selectmen for remainder of trail: no update

Bedford TV Conservation cable series update: Yan saw the show on local cable and was impressed. Art did a wonderful job walking along the trail and talking about the Conservation Areas.

Nathan Kimball-North Road access to land update: no update.

Easements/Trail Connections

Review status of trail connections: cover letter to Land Acquisition Committee to accompany plan and list.

Bog Bridges

Old Reservoir: discuss plan for proposed arch bridge; Mark reported that he has a new idea to make the existing trail passable over the stream 20 feet away from the original proposed crossing. The new location is approximately 8 feet long so a standard bog bridge may be possible. Tim will talk to Elizabeth and see about setting up the site visit with Mark to view his idea at the location.

Springs Brook CA: update from Art on meeting with Land Steward to review locations. If Art is not available we need a volunteer to do a site visit to SBCA and flag the proposed area for bog bridges so we can add the information to the Annual Report for proposed work in 2012. It was suggested that Hal could maybe join the steward and GPS the locations. The committee discussed that the area is extremely wet and maybe bog bridges would not be enough and a boardwalk would be better. Yan will give Hal's number to the steward Amanda so they can coordinate a time to meet.

Carlson CA: update on completing effort to relocate bog bridges. Dan reported that the Committee relocated a few bog bridges and it is much better. They determined that potentially 4 or 5 more bog bridges would make it perfect all the way but at least the deepest areas are passable in its current state. For now it was decided that we will reevaluate that property at another time.

Massport: confirm proposed bog bridge locations to be included in Annual Report. The committee noted that some of the trails are confusing and the trails need additional blazing.

Members noted that there is a large area of shallow standing water and it was suggested that maybe the map be altered to remove the proposed blazed orange trail and not construct the proposed 60 ft boardwalk. Instead keep the focus on the outer loop trail and note the proposed bog bridges in the Annual Report. Mark noted that for the Annual Report we should consider changing the blue color for the Town owned land to another color so as not to be confused with water or wet areas.

Elm Brook CA: status update; members of the Committee visited the site and thought conditions looked okay.

Discuss date for next bog bridge building day: Paul thinks there are maybe two bog bridges left in stock. The Committee discussed having a few more on hand, maybe ten 8ft bog bridges. Paul will take an inventory and order materials. A date will be discussed at the January meeting.

Dan suggested creating a trail connection Railroad Ave to Elm Street. A few areas would need bog bridges in the wetland. There are existing trails in the area. Bruce suggested this project could be connected to Safe Routes to School.

Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

Governor Winthrop: status of new trail and stairs from Springs Road. Mark reported that the stairs are in place connecting to Springs Road. Mark checked with Art on installing BCT markers for Governor Winthrop. Paul has the BCT markers and can add on to each end of the Governor Winthrop trail. Bruce asked if pedestrian crosswalks would be added where the trails cross the road, such as Springs Road. It was noted that pedestrians will have to use caution when crossing roadways.

O'Connor CA parking area: status update. Adrienne reported that the DPW highway department completed the approved parking area. Mark has also done some additional trail maintenance at O'Connor.

Map boxes: status update; Paul is going to make another prototype out of cedar and give it to Elizabeth for review. Stewards have requested map boxes in their Field Reports. Ralph noted that York map boxes are currently not mounted. Yan reported that Elm Brook needs a map box, Wilderness needs a new map box. We will need to determine how map boxes will be attached. Paul has 10 posts left and could mount a map box on those posts.

Summary of Land Stewards Field Reports from October and work proposed for Trails Committee. Yan reported that according to Springs Brook steward, trail needs blazing – there are no metal discs and only paint has been used. Mark had started putting up some blazes at one time but could not get through the wet area. When the steward and Hal go out to look at bog bridges it would be good to look at blazing needs. Mark has a suggested new location for a SB trail that would only need one bridge. Mark noted that the bottom half of SB CA is too wet. Mark's proposed connection would include removal of a portion of existing trail that is too wet.

Wilderness steward noted that an entrance is needed to showcase Wilderness including a kiosk and map box, etc.

Papkee steward noted need for boulders to prevent dumping. Ralph agreed with the idea. Shawsheen CA steward recommended adding additional parking on Middlesex Turnpike. DPW took out one bridge at Springs Brook b/c the building inspector said it was unsafe. DPW also relocated a second bridge that had moved out of place in the spring 2010 flooding. Altmann needs a post and Minnie Reid need intersection posts – include intersection posts list in Annual Report.

How do Conservation Areas dispose of trash? including Jordan gardens? The best plan is for stewards to take it home. Rich and Elizabeth discussed Jordan.

Buehler CA: status update of adding missing brown trail per Hal GPS. Reviewed map showing Hal's GPS which shows trail is on private property. Mark noted that existing yellow trail is steep to railroad bed and would either need steps like Springs Road or find a less steep connection. For now the old yellow trail would have to be brown. DPW to make change. Lindau Trail map needs the butterfly plot added to the plan. Where is it? Peter and Yan will look into how the map should be revised.

Status of laminated maps at various kiosks: Yan reported that the laminated map on Dudley Road was stolen twice. Committee discussed that plexiglass is needed. Yan will coordinate getting a map from Elizabeth and Paul will figure out how to attach it.

Path from Narrow Gauge to Lane School: status of blazing

Massport: status of trail map/ready for distribution? DPW will send revised map to Elizabeth for review.

Review proposed trail from Evergreen to Minuteman Bikeway: it is on private property. Instead discussed connection from South Rd to Minuteman Bikeway through 202 South Road. The Committee noted that there is interest in opening up a connector trail however there is fence on the town's property. Tim will discuss this with Elizabeth and see how this can be further pursued through the Selectmen.

Status of eroded trail from Lane School to Pond: Mark noted there is no erosion.

Trail Guide

Review status of Trail Guide: Peter passed out an example of one spread of the book that he laid out including content written by Kristin Marcus. Peter has asked for input from members to fill in some additional information.

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. Annual report should again include the proposed Carlson boardwalk and also report success of lane School trail Ralph and Mark completed.

Trail Walks & Public Education

December 3rd – Dan Hurwitz recap – no participants but one member arrived after they left.

January 7th – Dan Hurwitz

February 4th – Bruce (switched from January)

New business: Ralph reported as a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee that residents along Hemlock Lane have agreed to have a sidewalk installed on the upland side. CPC has money for sidewalks that could maybe also be used for trail connections. Ralph would like members to let him know if there are areas where sidewalk extensions would benefit existing trails.

Next meeting, Tuesday, January 10, 2011