

## Bedford Trails Committee

Minutes – **Wednesday**, February 12, 2014 – 6:00pm Town Hall 1st Floor Conference Room followed by Conservation Commission Hearing at 7pm in the Selectmen's Meeting Room – 1st floor Town Hall

**Participants** – Michael, Paul, Ralph, Mark, Hal, Chip, Kristin, Adrienne

**Meeting Minutes** – December 10, 2013 & January 14, 2014 approved.

### **Membership openings – Conservation Commission liaison & possible Recreation liaison**

Adrienne reported that she had checked with Amy Hamilton regarding a recreation liaison for the Trails Committee and that Ron Richter may be interested but he travels the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month for work so he would not be available to attend our meetings. It may be possible to just have someone from Recreation attend meetings periodically but not be a voting member just so they are aware of projects we are working on. Ralph noted that he may be officially rejoining both the Trails Committee and the Bicycle Advisory committee and then the Trails Committee would again have one of the needed liaisons as stated in the charter. We are still not sure about the Conservation Commission liaison but it is mentioned in the Annual Report and may be discussed at the hearing following this meeting.

### **Annual Report Review – Distribute Final Copy to members and review outline for hearing discussion**

Kristin noted that she would be following the outline of the report and discussing items in order, starting with membership. Next would be bog bridges, specifically noting the Massport Area. The latest update from Elizabeth was that it may be possible for the Trails Committee to supply the bog bridges to Tom Ennis and that he would orchestrate having them installed on his end. This would possibly avoid the need to have a signed agreement which has been the hold up in the past. Mark noted that he was concerned on how the Massport folks may install the bog bridges and that if they were not installed properly, it would be a reflection on the Trails Committee. Other members felt that it would be okay for Massport to install and that they were hopeful that it would be done sufficiently and not reflect on the Trails Committee. Kristin reiterated that there are just 3 locations on the Massport land, with 1 bog bridge needed at each location (final length to be determined in the field) and that all of the paperwork had already been submitted, including the vegetation analysis and the sign off from Natural Heritage since a portion of the site is within priority habitat. The Committee decided they would take a vote and Michael moved to approve the plan that the Trails Committee agree to give the 3 bog bridges to Massport for them to install, seconded by Hal, and approved unanimously.

### **Bog Bridges**

Schedule next bog bridge building day – Paul noted that it would be best to build 10 to have them ready to go. Mark noted we also need to have a few longer ones in the stockpile. Paul suggested Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and they will meet at Paul's house at 8am. Paul will take inventory and the plan will be to also install the bog bridge at Lane School on the same day.

Bog bridge ramps – status update; Mark suggested that for the bog bridge building day on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the first hour will be to build bog bridge ramps and everyone agreed that was a good plan. The new bog bridge Notice of Intent will need to include proposed bog bridges for the Town Campus area on the orange loop around the pond.

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

Map boxes – status update; included in the Annual Report and will be discussed at the hearing; Paul confirmed 3 locations with Elizabeth to install on existing kiosks as long as they are not too close to the road. Chip noted that O'Connor needs a map box on the new kiosk. Dudley Road and Fawn Lake (on the Sweetwater Ave) side are the other 2 locations.

Trail posts/signs – status update; included in the Annual Report and will be discussed at the hearing. Huckins Farm – status update; ongoing effort with the Conservation Administrator and will be discussed at the hearing.

Proposed Bedford Circuit Trail Loop– status update; Ralph will speak about it at the hearing. Ralph noted that the Selectmen approved the proposed marking of the circuit trails at their hearing on January 21<sup>st</sup>. He also noted that he has been on cable TV and met with the Chamber of Commerce and the Unitarian Church. He is meeting tonight with the Historical Society and will be meeting soon with the Council on Aging. It was noted that possibly the Day of Transition could be on National Trails Day in June.

**Boardwalks – not discussed.**

### **Trail Guide**

Review status of Trail Guide – not discussed.

### **Updates from other Committees**

Land Acquisition Committee – status update – not discussed.

### **New Business/Events – none**

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

Trail leader T-shirt option; not discussed.

February 1<sup>st</sup> – recap from Bruce; via email, Bruce noted he had 5 repeat walkers with icy conditions. He noted that the trail walk binder should be replaced.

March 1<sup>st</sup> – needs a leader; Paul will lead.

### **Next meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup>**

### **Presentation to Conservation Commission: 7:00pm in Selectmen's Meeting Room**

Trails Committee presented 2013 Annual Report to the Commission with question and answer period to follow.

*Meeting minutes recorded by Kristin Dowdy and approved on March 11, 2014.*