

Bedford Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 7:00pm Town Hall – multi purpose room

Tick Talk, with short meeting to immediately follow.

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

Membership openings – new Conservation Commission liaison, Steve Hagan was introduced to the Committee. Discussed that the current chair of the Recreation Committee, Ron Richter may be joining the Trails Committee if his schedule allows, thus fulfilling the requirement to have a liaison to the Recreation Committee. Steve was recently appointed to a Charter Review Committee and asked if the Trails Committee has any need to change their number of voting members. Due to the difficulty in getting a quorum, the Committee decided that keeping the number at 7 or 8 is probably best.

Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2014 minutes approved.

Annual Report – distribute remaining hard copies.

Bog Bridges

Bog bridge building day – Saturday March 15th, Paul Marcus' house at 8am to build bog bridge ramps and bog bridges and then install bog bridge at Lane School. Paul checked inventory and there are 5 old bog bridges that did not have sills so they will start with adding sills and then there is enough material to do long and short ones and he will get a trailer and have everything ready. Mark noted that it would be helpful to build some 16-ft bog bridges to have in stock and Paul noted that by building 16 ft bog bridges there would be zero waste. On Saturday, they will also install the one bog bridge needed at Lane School. Mark will make sure the trail at Lane School to North Road still has some ribbons showing where the trail is located.

Status of bog bridge approvals – Paul asked about the status of Old Middlesex Road and the Eagle Scout project. We know Elizabeth is working with the Eagle Scout candidate and noted that if they are installing those bog bridges under the existing Order of Conditions that it will have to be completed by April 15, 2014.

Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

Map boxes – status update; Paul has been veneering maps to the front of the boxes and the first round will be attached to existing kiosks.

Trail posts/signs – status update; no update

Huckins Farm – status update; Kristin shared an update from Clem who was not in attendance at the meeting: per email dated 3/7/14:

Re: (agenda) "Huckins Farm - status update"--please provide the following report at the meeting:

1. We're hoping to get 3 boardwalks (#6, 7, 8 on map, already surveyed) and 2 bog bridges (#9, 10 on map) included and built this year.
2. We're continuing the (required twice yearly) Conservation Commission Huckins Farm subcommittee meeting on Mar 17. Agenda includes: easements, bog bridges & boardwalks, trail maintenance, sign posts, map kiosk, and reblazing. Expected attendees are Andreas, Tim and possibly Elizabeth from Conservation, and Jerry, Susanne and Clem from Huckins Farm.

3. Ralph is expecting to complete 2 sign posts within a week, to be installed on both sides of Dudley Rd. at Cozy Lane.

4. Plan to have our first community trail walk of the year the last weekend in March

It was noted that the entrance sign posts for Dudley Road at Cozy lane are within 100ft of a wetland and will require a conservation permit. Paul noted that he has 6 entrance posts in his shop that need to be milled. Kristin also noted that Elizabeth had completed an RDA for signs and posts back in the fall and that included entrance posts for both the Job Lane School and the Town Campus trails.

Proposed Bedford Circuit Trail Loop- status update; Ralph noted that many people are taking an interest in this, especially the Historic Society. He has also spoke at the COA, Chamber of Commerce and Rotary. He got approval from the Rotary Club to host the map for the circuit trail which will include links to the Town website, etc. Adrienne noted that there are concerns about using painted white and yellow dots for the circuit trail since they can be confused with utility markings for DigSafe and that in Lexington and Concord they are using trail markers that mark the trails. Bill Magee from DPW did a few potential concepts that included arrows and could mark the trail where it changes direction. There are many ways that these markers could be displayed and we can talk about it at the next meeting.

Ralph distributed his Trail Research List which showed a graph of additional research that is needed for various points of interest and if anyone has information to add, they can send it to Ralph.

Ralph asked about the status of 35-45 Wiggins Avenue easement. Adrienne noted that we had sent the proposed easement to Tim White but that we had not yet heard back any feedback. We will check on this for the next meeting.

Trail Guide

Review status of Trail Guide; Kristin noted that a revised Guide noting the latest edits will need to be organized and sent to Committee members for another round of review.

Updates from other Committees

Land Acquisition Committee – status update; no update

New Business/Events

Mark noted that a date should be set to coordinate with the High School Interact Club to get the kids out doing some trail work. Ralph has the contact information for about 12 kids. The plan would be for a half day of work and we will pick a day at the April Trails Committee meeting.

Trail Walks & Public Education

Trail leader T-shirt option, trail walk binder – new binder will be ready for April.

April 5th – Dan may be able to lead.

Next meeting is April 8th

Meeting minutes recorded by Kristin Dowdy and approved on April 8, 2014.