

# Bedford Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – 7:30pm DPW 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room

Participants – Dan, Bruce, Kristin, Michael, Steve, Adrienne, Ralph, Chip, Mark & Paul.

Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2014; no vote taken – hold for June meeting.

## Review Committee rules and discuss quorum & membership issues

Michael reviewed the information from the April 16<sup>th</sup> Volunteer workshop which included committee rules, and noted that email discussions are not supposed to take place if there is a quorum on the email. Steve clarified the best way to avoid any issues is not to use “reply all”. Discussions need to happen at the open meeting. Since the TC has 8 people, there are 5 people needed for a quorum. If there is no quorum, no official business can take place. We should start getting an rsvp for meetings so that if there is no quorum, the meeting could be cancelled. Ralph is still waiting on becoming an official member of the Bicycle Committee. Does a committee liaison have to be a voting member of both committees? All committee members need to make sure they are up to date on the current ethics law – test has to be taken every 2 years.

## Bog Bridges

Status of bog bridge approvals; Conservation permits filed – Kristin reported that the Town Campus RDA was approved at the Conservation Hearing to allow for post installation and stairs at Town Campus. Mark needs proposed wording for intersection posts on Town Campus. Posts will note to Railroad Ave, Elm Street and ‘Rec Field’ towards BHS.

Old Middlesex Road – The Eagle Scout Mike Mahoney filed a Notice of Intent with Elizabeth Bagdonas and they are on the agenda for the May 14<sup>th</sup> Conservation Commission hearing. Clem went to the site with Elizabeth and took photographs of bog bridges needed on the new trail and once the hearing closes we will find out what bog bridge lengths they need for bog bridges. Mark noted that one option is to connect two bog bridges with a bog bridge ramp – for an example, check out the ramp on the bog bridges just off of Elm Street on the Town Campus.

Mark noted a Bog Bridge is needed at Old Rez on a trail not currently shown on the map – two orange bypass trails need to be GPS’d and added to the trail map. Also, an additional bog bridge is needed next to the main bridge leading to the Reservoir.

## Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

Map boxes – status update; Paul has one mounted at Altmann and is ready to do Fawn Lake, O’Connor & Minnie Ried.

Trail posts/signs – status update; Conservation permits approved. Ralph has 4 posts ready to go and needs to confirm the wording for routing. Three posts are for Old Rez and one for Lane School.

Mark noted that the intersection of the existing trail to Buehler and the proposed trail to Narrow Gauge Rail Trail needs a post. He also noted that with a slight shift of the existing orange trail to North Road, it would be possible to line up the existing trail with the proposed trail to the Narrow Gauge and create a 4 way intersection, needing only one post. DPW will update the proposed Lane School/Buehler Map for the RDA filing that is scheduled to be part of the Conservation Commission hearing on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Huckins Farm – status update; Town Counsel opinion on easements; Kristin reported follow up suggestion from Elizabeth. Committee agreed it would be best to have Elizabeth draft a letter to Huckins Farm asking their permission to move forward with obtaining new easements as the next step.

Springs CA – review Michael's status report

Discussed the wet trail issues at Springs Brook CA and the popularity of the area for trail users. Fawn Lake is also very popular but already has money in place to start looking at improvements as part of an ongoing study. Springs Brook CA would be a good area to showcase the first boardwalk. Overall the consensus would be to have a boardwalk with helical piers to go the entire length of the wet area, which would involve requesting funding from Community Preservation in either the fall or the spring at town meeting. Paul noted there used to be a connection to Carleton Willard but it would now need a boardwalk. Steve noted that in the past there has been opposition from Carleton Willard with regard to making any public trail connections. The Springs Brook boardwalk would not be greater than 30 inches off the ground and would not need a railing. Paul noted that pressure treated wood has more strength and supports could be spaced further apart. Mark agreed that pressure treated would be cheaper and easier to maintain. Discussed the Millipore boardwalk design and option between helical support versus steel u-shaped sign posts. Mark noted that we may not have enough man power to build a boardwalk of this length. Dan said if we get money from CPC we would hire a contractor to do the work and Mark said that seems like the best way to go. The next step is to draft a cost estimate per linear foot. DPW to send information on Millipore boardwalk to Paul.

Job Lane/Buehler CA – review blazing scheme & Conservation Permit filing; Voted unanimously to change map as described above to create 4 way intersection. The blazing scheme would be having the trail from North Road to the Narrow Gauge Rail Trail be blue, and change the trail to Lane School to be yellow.

Conservation Permit filed for Donovan Drive, Governor Winthrop CA – Kristin reported that a Notice of Intent was filed with Conservation to establish new trail within a proposed easement at 14 Donovan Drive. Trail would connect to main blue trail in Governor Winthrop. Conservation Commission hearing is scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Proposed Bedford Circuit Trail Loop- status update, website details & review proposed marker; Ralph reported that the next step is to get the rotary website going. Also, Ralph and DPW are meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 8am in the parking lot for 35 Wiggins Ave to discuss easement to Bridge Street. Hold discussion on proposed marker for next meeting.

Harvard pond – flooding issues; Paul noted that the old pipe may be collapsed and one option to solve the flooded trail problem is to install a new outlet pipe and possibly a beaver deceiver, but the area is on private property. Ralph has a contact at the Harvard field station. It may be a good idea to go back and look when it's much drier in the summer.

### **Trail Guide**

Review status of Trail Guide; Maps updated to show trail marker on legend; no discussion, hold for next meeting.

### **Updates from other Committees**

Land Acquisition Committee – status update; no update.

### **New Business/Events**

Dan drafted a letter regarding ways to reduce the tick population by controlling the deer population.

Reviewed the letter and discussed the options. Steve noted that the first two bullet points are strong since they relate specifically to trails and the point that it's not feasible to widen the trails but the other 4 bullet points are not necessary as they pertain to other user groups (dogs and kids). Dan thinks we will need as much ammunition as possible to allow hunting on town property. Discussed that a professional hunter with a rifle would be more humane than bow hunting and the goal would be to thin out the herd of deer over time. The reduction in deer population would take years to accomplish. It was agreed that the letter would be revised to include just the first two bullet points and that Michael will make a pass at reading through and a final letter will be submitted to the Board of Health. Voted and approved unanimously.

June 20<sup>th</sup> is the River Steward Awards: Mark Levine, Hal Ward & Paul Marcus were nominated from the Trails committee. The entire committee could not be nominated as a whole so there may be other members nominated for the award next year. In 2012, Adrienne and Kristin received the award for stormwater work in Bedford.

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

Trail leader T-shirt option – not discussed, hold for next meeting.

May walk – Paul had 4 people and a dog.

June 7<sup>th</sup> – needs a leader (National Trails Day) – Bruce can lead the walk in June.

July 5<sup>th</sup> – needs a leader unless it gets cancelled for holiday weekend. Discuss at next meeting.

**Next meeting is June 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Meeting minutes recorded by Kristin Dowdy and approved on June 10, 2014.*