

# Bedford Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 10, 2014 – 7:30pm DPW 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room

**Participants** – Hal, Steve, Michael, Paul, Adrienne, Ralph, Peter, Chip, Jim, Dan, Kristin

**Meeting Minutes** – April 8, 2014 & May 13, 2014; Michael moved to approve minutes from both months and Hal 2<sup>nd</sup>ed, passed unanimously.

**Confirmation of Membership** – Ralph needs to be officially sworn in and will represent the bicycle meeting. This will mean 8 members and 5 are needed for a quorum. We will be sending emails to get an rsvp for meetings and if there will not be a quorum we will cancel the meeting.

## Bog Bridges, Trail Blazing, Mapping & Maintenance

Map boxes – status update; Paul put one in at Fawn Lake and attached it to the kiosk. We need to confirm who will be responsible for keeping the boxes filled with maps. DPW will put in the first round of maps, which can always be printed from the Town website. Michael noted we can let the Land Stewards know about the new map boxes and have them at least report if they are empty. Paul noted that Heidi Porter, Board of Health Director wants to add tick information and we will let her know when map boxes are installed and ready. Paul is planning to install one per week as time allows.

Trail posts/signs – status update; Ralph has two posts ready to route for Valente. Posts will still be needed for Lane School once the wording is decided on for North Road to Narrow Gauge Rail Trail. Proposed trail posts at Town Campus were previously approved with Conservation. Huckins Farm – status update on easements; Elizabeth's draft letter to be approved at Con Com Wednesday night, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Old Middlesex Rd – status update; Paul met Elizabeth and walked the site and the Boy Scouts will be clearing Middlesex Road (about halfway) from Art's house towards North Road and when it gets too difficult with the barberry then Paul and the Trails Committee could do the rest. The Eagle Scout started last Saturday and Paul will be giving him two bog bridges. One of them will have the pipe sills and the other won't have any pipes and they should be installed on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Paul can use his tractor and we will be in contact with Elizabeth when it's time to schedule the clearing effort.

Springs CA – proposed boardwalk; Paul discussed boardwalk construction options and Ralph distributed a document showing an idea to build a boardwalk similar to the bog bridge design and using steel sign posts. Hal asked if there are state or federal regulations that would need to be researched for the design. It was noted that as long as the boardwalk is less than 30 inches off the ground a railing would not be needed. Confirmed that Trex decking would not be used since it would be hazardous when wet and doesn't provide any gain in strength. Also reviewed design for boardwalk from Mill Brook that was done by Fish & Wildlife. Paul will put together a cost estimate for a 10 foot section and will review the design with Chris Laskey to see if there are any issues. Steve and Paul noted that screws are better than ring nails to reduce

maintenance needs. Next step is to modify FWS design to have pressure treated wood and screws. Final design will need approval by an engineer to confirm load capacity, etc. Job Lane/Buehler CA – Conservation hearing June 11<sup>th</sup>; approval will be for new trail at Lane School to Narrow Gauge Rail Trail, and relocating existing trail to create 4-way intersection. Donovan Drive/Governor Winthrop CA – Conservation hearing June 11<sup>th</sup>; Approval will be for trail in new easement at 14 Donovan Drive to connect to existing trail at Governor Winthrop Conservation Area. Conservation filing includes bog bridge on existing trail. Following all approvals, we can schedule an installation day for posts.

Proposed Bedford Circuit Trail Loop– status update; need to work on marker design. DPW confirmed that there is no difference in cost between rectangular markers or round, so the plan for rectangular will work out well. Also discussed ordering more of the Town of Bedford Public Trail markers; separate from the Circuit Trail markers. Paul will check if Art has any markers left. Since material cost is negligent compared to equipment set up cost, it makes sense to order extra. DPW will order 100 more and store the extra. Continue discussion of rectangular Circuit Trail marker design at next meeting.

Harvard pond – flooding issues; Paul tried to look for the existing outlet pipe but it is possibly collapsed. The beavers have built an extensive dam and the water has been 12 inches above the trail. Ralph has a contact and can talk to him about work to help make the existing trail passable. If the pipe could be replaced and a beaver deceiver added, it could be a possible solution. Once the outlet pipe is working, bog bridges may not be needed. The property owner would need to agree to any possible trail solutions and the Trails Committee could take care of getting necessary permits on behalf of the owner.

Proposed trail on US FWS land from Old Causeway Rd to Carlisle Rd boat landing; Ralph noted that Clem wrote a proposal to Libby about a potential trail that would connect to the Carlisle Road boat landing. Ralph discussed with Libby that it was previously an existing trail and Libby seemed to think that since it was a former trail, it would be okay but they are very busy now and short handed. Dave Rainey from Huckins was working with Clem. Ralph asked Libby if we could begin to maintain that trail again and let the public use it. Paul has a map that was put together by Daisy Pickman that shows all the trails in the area and includes that same trail. He will scan and send it for review and also noted that Elizabeth has a copy of it. We will permission from Fish and Wildlife to trim back the trail and maintain it again. In the winter it would be easier to collect GPS data.

## Trail Guide

Review status of Trail Guide; Maps updated to show trail marker on legend.

Paul had gotten a copy of the Lexington Trail Guide and noted that it was a \$10 donation, not “for sale”.

Kristin reported that she and Elizabeth have been actively working on editing the write ups and hope to be done in the next few weeks. They had finished a new draft of 14 out of 17 areas and when it's complete it will be sent to Peter. Kristin also noted that a few of the maps will be rotated 180 degrees if the North arrow was not straight up on the page.

Town Campus still needs a write up – Ralph noted pond was built by Murray York. Elizabeth may have some background information on the property from back in the '70's so we should check with her.

Peter has been talking with a print shop in Cambridge that will be ready to go as soon as the information is complete.

### **Updates from other Committees**

Land Acquisition Committee – status update; no update

### **New Business/Events**

Ralph reported that Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> will be the award ceremony in Sudbury for the River Stewards – this year's award recipients are Hal, Mark and Paul. All are invited to attend.

Letter from Trails to Board of Health regarding Tick Talk is almost complete and will be sent out soon.

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

Trail leader T-shirt option – did not discuss

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Bruce did not have any takers and noted that we need to make sure that the sign boards are not obscured by other signs in front of DPW and that the sign at the police station is set out. He did do a walk on the Massport land and noticed that the border monument is missing. DPW to hold binder for August walk.

July 5<sup>th</sup> – cancel for holiday weekend.

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – needs a leader

**Next meeting is July 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Meeting minutes recorded by Kristin Dowdy and approved on September 16, 2014.*