



**Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday January 16 @ 2:30 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)**

Participants:

- Committee members present: Finn, Kitchell, Lang, Mattson, Rothe
- Committee members absent: Clark, Huinker, APIS rep. vacant (Finn suggested Steve Ballou)
- Trails Subcommittee present: Johnson
- Communications Subcommittee present: None
- Others present:

Agenda

1. Ad hoc Subcommittee Report: Revised Vision & Mission statements: Rother & Kitchell
  - a. Verbal feedback on drafts: Discussion notes inserted at end of this document.
  - b. Next iteration will be circulated with Trails and Communications Subcommittees.
  - c. Final version will be considered for adoption at March/April BAT Comm. meeting
  - d. BAT Comm. will conduct annual MOU review in conjunction with February meeting.
2. 2024 Priorities (revised version attached): Kitchell
  - a. A few suggestions were made
  - b. Assuming that Kitchell will incorporate those changes, the **BAT Comm. approved** the document as a guide for 2024. Adjustments may be made through the year in consultation with the BAT Comm.
3. Annual Report (draft attached\*) (20 min.): Kitchell
  - a. Written approval had been provided by Lang, Mattson, & Wegerson via email
  - b. A few points of verbal feedback were provided at the meeting.
  - c. Requesting written feedback by 1/22/24
  - d. Assuming Kitchell will incorporate the feedback, the **BAT Comm. approved** the 2023 Annual Report for distribution and posting via the BATs website and the Bayfield Chamber Blast.
4. Trails Subcommittee Report & Input from BAT Comm. (TSC) (20 min.): Wegerson & Ipsen
  - a. Trails mapping: Johnson reported on ongoing efforts with the County Lands Records & GIS staff to make georeferenced trail map data timely available to the public via the County's online map gallery.
  - b. Report from Ad hoc committee on Trails Dedications & Forum: Key points of discussion were about obtaining large tents and tables as well as potential featured speakers.
    - i. Tent possibilities & contacts: Cady Plumbing (per Mattson); Northland College (events or facilities?); Sara Hudson @ Ashland Parks & Rec.; Tom Fitz @ BATB; the Chateau in Bayfield.
    - ii. BAT Comm. members were put on notice to bring their own tents & tables for displays.
    - iii. If we need to rent anything from the Chamber, we should work through RFR which is a Chamber member & has the financial role for payment rental fee.
    - iv. People liked the idea of Paul Piszczek or Tom Fitz. Also suggested googling the members of the Nonmotorized Trails Council to learn more about them

- and their public speaking abilities. How about a person knowledgeable about accessibility (including ruggedized wheelchairs?)
- v. Positive support for break-out sessions to engage attendees.
  - vi. ACTION: Kitchell will prepare a more detailed agenda for the program to be considered at the next BAT Comm. meeting.
- c. Report from Ad hoc committee on Management & Maintenance Standards: they are working on a draft document; expecting it fairly soon.
5. Communications & Website: Kitchell
- a. Pileated Woodpecker Trail snowshoe blog planned for posting when there's enough snow.
  - b. Several website updates implemented by Tony J.
    - i. Added descriptions for the PWT & Big Ravine Headwaters under the "Trails" web page.
    - ii. Added Adopt-a-Trail, along with the list of segments, to the website
    - iii. Updated status of previous accomplishments
6. Economic Impact Study Update: nothing new to report
7. Rapid Round Robin Reports
- a. **Ashwabay** (Finn): not much snow, but they have groomed the hill and nordic trails. People are skiing.
  - b. **City** (Clark/Carrier):
    - i. New Sweeny Loop Trail has been approved by the Parks & Rec. Committee. On the next City Council meeting for approval.
    - ii. Starting discussions about potential bridges on 2 creek crossings on Lower Gil Larsen Trail.
  - c. **Landmark** (Lang): Submitted a large grant to FEMA for the Brownstone Trail via the County (it's a long shot). New signs on the Brownstone. Waterford Condos. Are supportive of granting a non-motorized trail easement to extend the Brownstone Trail. There are 4 more property owners that would need to grant easements in order to connect to the Salmo Trail.
  - d. **County** (Mattson): Moved the trail counter to the start of the AWB ski trails. A little grooming has occurred at Siskiwit by Steve Vizanko from Bayfield Nordic. No snowmobile trail activity. Waiting for snow.
  - e. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club**: (Rothe): Helped with clearing brush to facilitate grooming.
  - f. **Town of Bayfield**: (Kitchell)
    - i. Most directional signs & USNG Emergency Location signs have been placed on the PWT.
    - ii. Trail map produced by Brigid Reina-Williams at the County. Ready for production and installation at intersections and ultimately at trailheads. Will also "roll out" via website.
  - g. **Red Cliff** (Huinker): 3 proposals received for the Trails Feasibility study; review and selection panel to be convened soon.
  - h. **APIS/NPS**: (vacant; replacement TBD): Kitchell will contact Superintendent Lynne Dominy to request replacement (Steve Ballou?)

8. Future Meetings: @ 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
    - a. February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  9. Future Agenda Topics:
    - MOU Review
    - Long-term strategic planning?
      - Trails Forum Feedback follow up
      - Establishing a sustainable organization (passing the baton)
    - Trail management standards: blazing, closures, etc.
    - Reaching trail users at trailheads – for volunteering, fundraising, and participating
    - Trail mapping
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### Discussion of Mission & Vision Statements

#### Mission Statement

##### **Points of discussion** about Mission Statement:

- Consensus that we need to be careful not to develop too many trails that we are not capable of maintaining
- Be cautious about getting beyond our capacity
- Keep in mind the aging demographic and the possibility that BATs may not always be around to maintain trails
- More extreme climatic events, including flooding and extreme snow/mud conditions, are impacting trails & their sustainability
- Make sustaining/maintaining our first priority
- Drop the words *expand and sustain* and replace with *provide*. Other options could include: support", "foster", "promote", "nurture", "facilitate", "champion"

**Original Version:** *To expand and sustain a high-quality network of diverse trails within the Bayfield Peninsula with active community engagement and support.*

**Proposed Revision:** *To provide (furnish?) a high-quality network of diverse trails within the Bayfield Peninsula with active community engagement and support.*

#### Vision Statement

##### **Points of Discussion** about Vision Statement:

- The vision statement should be more concise
- To avoid confusion about the meaning of “Bayfield area trails,” start statement with “Our or Bayfield Peninsula” trails...
- Preference for “positive user experiences” vs. harmony
- Should we include a reference to “types of trails” in addition to trail users?
- “*Locate trails in suitable environments*” is an aspect of environmental sustainability; thus it could be dropped.
- Adding “social sustainability” encompasses the concept of positive user experiences and harmony

- Silent sports: no consensus on this.
  - We don't want to exclude or send a message that we would not support or consider trails with a variety of uses: Bayfield to Red Cliff example
  - Silent sports vs. multiple use? (we cover multiple-use with the mission statement term "diverse trails.")
  - Our funding sources are primarily focused on silent sports – further discussion clarified that this is not entirely accurate
  - We should define this term somewhere
  - Bring some options to the Trails Forum to get feedback from our community
    - An alternative would be to seek feedback electronically from our volunteer community

**Original version:** *Bayfield area trails enhance individual and community wellbeing by connecting people with nature and each other. With a focus on silent sports trails and inspired by a strong land stewardship ethic, we collaborate with all trail users (and types?) to facilitate harmony-(or positive user experiences?), locate trails in suitable environments, and advance social, environmental and economic sustainability.*

**Proposed Revision:** *Our (Bayfield Peninsula?) trails will enhance individual and community wellbeing by connecting people with nature and each other. With a primary focus on silent sports trails and inspired by a strong land stewardship ethic, we collaborate with trail users to advance social, environmental and economic sustainability.*

**Mark-up option for second sentence:** *With a primary focus on silent sports trails and inspired by a strong land stewardship ethic, we collaborate with all trail users (and types?) to facilitate positive user experiences and advance environmental and economic sustainability.*

**An alternative statement (Lindley's Draft):** *Trails enhance individual and community wellbeing by connecting people with nature & each other, by advancing social, environmental, and economic sustainability.*

Other Considerations:

- Second sentence of Vision Statement: when we review the MOU at the Feb. BAT Comm. meeting, we could consider adding the concepts from the second part of Vision Statement to the MOU under a Core Values section or the Objectives section.
- Priorities document: move "maintain and enhance existing trails" to the top of the list to demonstrate this as our top priority.