



## Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes Tuesday March 8 @ 3 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)

### Participants:

- Committee members present: Bratsch, Fahrenkrog, Kitchell, Lang, Rothe
- Committee members absent: Finn, VanBergen, Van Stappen
- Communications Subcommittee: none present
- Trails Subcommittee: Ipsen, Johnson, Wegerson
- Invited guests: Roger Aiken (NCCA); Darren Winchester (CAMBA)

### Trails Subcommittee (TsC): Ipsen, Wegerson, Johnson (notes & work plan attached)

- Report on 1<sup>st</sup> meeting: Ipsen highlighted notes
  - Next meeting 3/22; Will be assigning trail adopters.
  - Working on coordinating opportunity for chainsaw training as well as First Aid/CPR training.
- 2022 work plan review (to be posted to website & sent via email by 3/15):
  - due to conflict with the City's dumpster days, the virtual training was moved to May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9 a.m. and Iron Bridge planting and forget-me-nots pulling were moved to May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9 a.m.
- Operations Manual is a work in progress
- Darren Winchester mentioned CAMBA-sponsored chainsaw training on 4/23: Wegerson confirmed that she has been in touch with those from USFS who are doing the training.

### Communications Subcommittee (CsC): Since Fentress was not present, Kitchell gave report.

- Report on 1<sup>st</sup> meeting: Kitchell displayed the work plan, which parallels the TsC field projects work plan.
  - Most of the CsC work plan is focused on blog & Facebook posts.
  - It also includes signage: trailhead interp. signs plus on-trail maps & directional signage. Neil Howk will be leading the sign design, including trying to develop consistent sign standards and guidelines that will likely emulate the approach used in the Big Ravine. Effort will be made to coordinate among BAT Comm. partners, including the County.
- Kurt Dickie is researching methods to develop & deliver georeferenced maps via a free cell phone app. Avenza is one option. This will be useful for trail users; TsC trails inventory and adopt-a-trail program; and the new trails scoping and planning.
- Erika Lang asked Jen Bratsch about the EMS sign efforts to facilitate emergency response. Jen reported that the County EMS is making progress. **ACTION:** this should be factored into the BAT Comm sign design standards and guidelines.
- Next meeting: 3/28 @ 9 a.m.

### New Trails Scoping Ad Hoc Subcommittee: Kitchell

- Report on 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (notes in packet)
- 1<sup>st</sup> priority will be to focus on connecting the west side of the City to the Brownstone, Big Ravine, & Apostle Highlands. Second priority is Brownstone to Salmo connection.
- Next meeting: 4/19 @ 5 p.m.

### Collaborating with the Cycling Community - invited guests

- **Chequamegon Area Mountain Biking Association** (Darren Winchester)
  - They are active at Mt. Ashwabay but also in the Cable/Hayward area.
  - Women's Clinic at AWB May 13 – 15
  - In 2022, they are thinking of some new trails, but plan to stay pretty much "status quo." Top priority is to properly maintain the trails they have developed.

- CAMBA would welcome volunteers from BATs: he'll let Kitchell know if/when they have projects at AWB planned to enable volunteer recruiting.
- CAMBA has a standard approach to signage. They have recently undergone rebranding; this will be reflected in new signs going forward. They do not have documentation of sign standards/guidelines.
- **North Coast Cycling Association (Roger Aiken)**
  - Interested in standard signage for continuity and consistency.
  - The last couple years have been challenging, but their organized events are back this year, including a successful Bike Across the Bay.
  - Donating bike racks, notably one at the Gil Larsen Trailhead. Supply chain issues causing delays.
  - They facilitated acquisition and donation of old RR grade to the City of Washburn to add to their trail systems.
  - They have set a goal to establish trail easements all of the way between Washburn and Ashland. Managing mixed use with ATVs is challenging.
- **Discussion:** about collaboration opportunities and ongoing coordination
  - "Ashwahalla" trail for biking and fat biking opportunities
  - Recruiting volunteers for trail projects
  - Consistent/unified signage is desirable, where possible
  - Rothe mentioned that there are many opportunities for trails in the Cornucopia area, including Pratt's Peak.

#### Round Robin Reports from Committee members

1. **NPS (Van Stappen):** not present
2. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club: (Rothe):**
  - **Town of Bayfield concerns w/Pratt's Peak:** Significant local interest has arisen in the Town of Bayfield about proposed new trails and access on **Pratt's Peak**: Town of Bell & CTC reps. are on the agenda for the Town of Bayfield Board meeting on 3/14<sup>th</sup>. Primary concerns appear to be about potential impact/conflict with historical uses (ATVs, snowmobiles, horses) that could lead to loss of the historical character and uses. Concerns over increase in use.
  - They are planning on laying out the **Pratt's Peak trails** soon, after snow clears. Parking will be enhanced with the assistance of the County. Exact location and details TBD.
  - Discussion ensued **County policies** regarding ATV and non-motorized use on the same trails. Bratsch explained that they County has 3 categories for motorized use: 1) closed; 2) ATV/UTV only; 3) all motorized uses (e.g. trucks). More details were provided by Bratsch – attached at the end of these notes.
  - **Siskiwit Preserve:**
    - Potential nordic trails: CTC has collaborated with Steve Vizanko from Bayfield Nordic to scope out a potential nordic trail in the orchard area. County is receptive, but needs to take the time to review and approve under use agreement.
    - Other trails opportunities discussed: Jen Bratsch & Erika Lang have scoped these out; and they hope to consult with Will Krift of Trails Anonymous.
  - Trails at the airport have been groomed – showing high level of interest in the community.
3. **County (Bratsch):**
  - Lots of snowmobile trails activities – good season this year; south part of the county expected to wrap up in the next couple weeks. The dedication of volunteer groomers has been incredible!
  - County has funding for Siskiwit Trails – needs to be spent by end of June.
  - They have published a RFP for pruning the orchard.
  - Some discussion ensued about possible grant for trails planning at Fire Tower property.

4. **Town of Bayfield** (Fahrenkrog & Kitchell):  
Hatchery Trail Project (Kitchell & Johnson): Town is administering project.
  - DNR permitting in progress
  - Funding: \$20K needed for trail construction; \$45K for bridge
    - \$2,000 in donations received for trail construction this season
    - 4 grants submitted for trail construction for a total request of \$18,500; will likely submit one more in May for \$5K.
    - Plan to submit \$25K request to the Wisconsin Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for the bridge (50% match required)
    - Will launch fundraising campaign in May, after DNR approvals are secured.
  - Bridge report (Johnson): doing lots of research to find most economical and feasible option.
  - Coordinating with AOEf & County for link to connect more directly from top of Hatchery Trail to the AWB trailhead. Also coordinating on maps & signage for hiking/snowshoeing routes that connect to the Hatchery trail.
5. **Landmark** (Lang):
  - Wetlands: Grant for \$21,545 from N. American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) approved!
    - Approval from Knowles-Nelson grant app. pending. It will be going for Joint Finance Committee review in late March.
    - Kitchell submitted grant app. to WCMP (\$22,045) & Biodiversity fund (\$10K) for balance of purchase, interp. signs, and initial trails.
  - Brownstone: The land conservancy certification organization has determined that Landmark will be able to conduct fundraising to cover the cost of the Maki business relocation because it is an essential step toward conserving the property and restoring the Brownstone Trail. This will require significant documentation, but it will be feasible. They are aiming to have a signed purchase agreement with Maki brothers by the end of March.
6. **Red Cliff** (VanBergen): not present
7. **Ashwabay (AOEF)** (Finn): not present
  - Meeting with County and review of the AWB SMA Plan (Finn & Kitchell)
8. **City** (Kitchell):
  - Waterfront Walk contract has been let: to be completed by June 15<sup>th</sup>; some funding will be available for additional work TBD.

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement (5 min.)

1. **Unincorporated Nonprofit Association status:** Bayfield Area Trails is now registered with the State. Entity ID#B106553
2. **Recreation and Fitness Resources approval pending**
3. **Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa feedback**
  - Let the record show that via this meeting, Gabrielle VanBergen is formally rescinding her yes vote at the February meeting to submit paperwork for BATs to become an unincorporated nonprofit. This change in entity type requires Tribal Council's pre-approval. Thus, her vote cannot constitute Red Cliff's approval in any way.
  - If Tribal Council does decide to agree with this change in entity type, then an interagency agreement will be required in order to establish policies and procedures of organizational dealings.
  - If Tribal Council does not wish to be a part of the unincorporated nonprofit, then they will provide formal documentation that clarifies the Tribe is simply a committee member and does not wish to be a part of the nonprofit legal entity.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 3 p.m.**

Kitchell out of town: meeting cancelled unless something compelling arises by end of March

## **MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT MOTORIZED USE ON COUNTY LANDS - PROVIDED BY JEN BRATSCH**

Access management maps. These are the maps that show what uses we allow on all of our trail/roads/logging routes on county forest.

<https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/236/Access-Management>

The Pratt's peak area is right between 2 maps. Its' mostly on the second map. It does look like highway vehicles are allowed on the trail to Lake of the Clouds:

<https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/612/Map-1-PDF>

<https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/613/Map-2-PDF>

ATV and Snowmobile Ordinances. The language differs slightly for each use. The ATV ordinance uses the word vehicle so I interpret that as pedestrians are allowed but bikes and other vehicles would not be. There are not many designated ATV trails in the Bayfield Area. They start in the Valhalla area. For snowmobile trails, it's snowmobile only no pedestrians.

This is the snowmobile

ordinance [https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1817/Title-10---Chapter-2?bidId=:](https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1817/Title-10---Chapter-2?bidId=)

And here is the ATV

ordinance [https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1823/Title-12---Chapter-1?bidId=:](https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1823/Title-12---Chapter-1?bidId=)



**Bayfield Area Trails**  
**Trails Subcommittee (TsC) Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday February 22, 2022 @ 5-6:30 pm (via Zoom)**

**Meeting Participants:**

- Members Present - Kate Kitchell (BAT Chair), Kris Wegerson, John Ipsen, Genevieve Johnson (Planning, Fundraising)
- Members Absent - Peter Rothe (Cornucopia Trails Club)
- Prospective New Members Present - Mark Peterson, Tracey Snyder, Jeff Olsen, Leo Stern, Sue Aiken, John Welch, Ted May, Mark Filonowich, Paul Kaese

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Get acquainted with one another: brief bios, interests, skills
- Understand TsC responsibilities & expectations of members
- Review 2022 work plan with a focus on projects to be led by TsC
- Confirm interest in serving on TsC
- Initiate assignments

**Welcome and Introductions**

1. Kate kicked off the meeting indicating this is a chance to get acquainted with one another and understand TsC responsibilities and expectations of potential members.
2. All meeting participants gave a personal bio:
  - John Ipsen - grew up in upstate New York; lived in Duluth, MN for years; is involved with North Country Trail (NCT); currently lives in Hayward, WI; is a retired Family Physician, would like to move to Bayfield
  - Kris Wegerson - spouse of John; was on the Board of Superior Hiking Trail (SHT), involved with the NCT; also, a Family Physician, working on retiring
  - Genevieve Johnson - has had a home in Bayfield for since 2003 (primary residence is in Minneapolis); sea kayaking brought her to the area; former Board member of Bayfield Regional Conservancy and now on the Board of Landmark Conservancy; deep passion for hiking and trails; a retired Architect.
  - Mark Peterson - retired Executive Director of Sigurd Olson Institute at Northland College; previously worked for the National Parks Conservation Association and the Audubon Society
  - Leo Stern - a sailor who built a home on Pageant Road 25 years ago between Buffalo and Schooner Bays; a retired attorney who also has a residence in the Twin Cities; enjoys hiking in the Bayfield area
  - Tracey Snyder, Jeff Olsen – married couple; live in Washburn now, formerly from Minocqua; Tracy is a Nurse Practitioner (knows Kris and John from the medical field); Jeff is a Forester with the DNR
  - John Welch - moved to Washburn area last August (able to work remotely); he has started a new job, has a 14-month-old daughter and is building a house so his time will be limited
  - Ted May - has lived in the area (Washburn) for many years, moved to the Apostle Highlands above Bayfield in 2021; has worked on Nordic ski trails with Bayfield Nordic and hiking trails in Costa Rica; his background is a Naturalist and Educator
  - Mark Filonowich - bought land and built a cabin on Bark Point near Herbster in 1980; not by nature a hiker but is interested in participating in trail building; he is a “jeep guy” and fat tire biker (he works for Quality Bikes)
  - Paul Kaese - a retired 3M engineer, his wife was a speech therapist; they live on Rice Ave. across from the Courthouse, near the Big Ravine

Sue Aiken - has experience on Sierra Club Board and working in Boundary Waters; loves all things outdoors; on Landmark Conservancy Board; retired public health nurse; from the Twin Cities and moved permanently to Bayfield; lives in Apostle Highlands area

Kate Kitchell - lives on N Limits in Bayfield, retired from the Dept of Interior, (NPS, BLM,USGS); on the Bayfield City Parks and Rec Committee; husband Mike grew up on Madeline Island; excited to be part of community

3. Kate gave an overview of the subcommittee and its place in the Bayfield Area Trails organization. The focus of this subcommittee is on trails project planning and implementation, volunteer coordination and fundraising. The 2022 work plan was reviewed with an emphasis on projects to be led by TsC. Other BATS committees include Communication and a future Ad Hoc (New Trails Scoping) Committee.

### **Trails Subcommittee Responsibilities and Expectations of Members**

1. Kris reviewed the committee charter as well as expectations for committee members. Initially it was set up for 7 members, but we are now expanding the group. Kate will stay involved but the intent is for this to be a self-governed committee. Monthly meetings were anticipated during the field work season of May - October as needed, but this year we will extend to March - October since we are just getting started. Genevieve & Kate are working on fundraising for projects. Kate & Will Krift (professional trail builder) have put on pre-season volunteer training in the past. Kris & John will continue to collect volunteer waivers. The Adopt-A-Trail program has not been initiated and needs a champion. Tools for project implementation include the Field Project Plan and Volunteer Sign-Up Forms.

### **Coordinating and implementing the 2022 Workplan**

1. Kate reviewed the 2022 Work Plan and Schedule. She identified that many projects are led by other organizations (e.g., Bayfield Parks and Rec) but still require volunteers. Two specific projects in 2022 that will be led and completed by the TsC are 1) Big Ravine West Rim trails maintenance, and 2) Jerry Jay Jolly trail maintenance and enhancement.
2. The project starts with a pre-project assessment followed by a project plan conducted by the project leader.
3. Volunteer recruitment occurs 10-14 days prior to project workdays; this includes a Google form with a project description and a volunteer release form. Volunteers can sign up for specific 3-hour shifts (typically two per day) or indicate they are flexible. The final schedule is sent out about 5 days prior.

### **Initiating Assignments**

1. Volunteer interest was opened to the meeting participants. A couple of projects have experienced project leaders already assigned but they may need or want a co-leader. Each project will need crew leaders (one per shift) and other volunteers.
2. West Rim Trail Maintenance Project  
Scope: eliminate tripping hazards (rocks, tree roots), fill in low spots from off-trail borrow pits. Assume 3-4 days duration.  
Project leader assigned: Bill Bland  
Crew shift leader(s): TBD  
*Meeting participants who expressed interest in this project include John Welch*

3. Jerry Jay Jolly Trail Maintenance Project  
 Scope: The trailhead is located at the Star Route parking lot. Trails to the overlook and connections to Jolly Long need clearing and revitalization. This effort starts the larger vision to connect to the proposed Hatchery to Ashwabay Trail. Assume 3-4 days duration.  
 Project leader assigned: Mike Kinnee  
 Crew shift leader(s): TBD  
*Meeting participants who expressed interest in this project include Paul Kaese, Tracey Snyder (Post meeting, Leo Stern also expressed interest)*
4. Raspberry River Trails Assessment  
 Scope: Determine what needs to be done to restore the trail. Blowdown and logging operations may have limited its potential.  
*Meeting participants who expressed interest in this task include Ted May and Jeff Olsen for GPS tracking; Sue Aiken and John Welch also expressed interest in visiting the site*
5. Install signs – various locations  
*Meeting participants who expressed interest in this task included Paul Kaese (Post meeting, Leo Stern also expressed interest)*
6. Develop and implement an “Adopt-a-Trail” program  
 Scope: TBD
7. Assist with fundraising  
 Scope: Launch campaigns for specific projects to supplements grant, municipality funding.  
*Meeting participants who expressed interest in this task include Sue Aiken.*
8. Trail GPS & Map Apps.  
*Not reviewed*

### **Next Steps & Upcoming Meetings**

1. Send out notes, link to meeting recording
2. Confirm schedule for monthly meetings March - October  
 Standard date/time: third Tuesday of the month @ 5 p.m. unless otherwise determined
3. TsC in March  
 Solidify initial assignments  
 Confirm trails training workshop in May (propose May 14<sup>th</sup>)

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 22<sup>th</sup> @ 5 p.m. via Zoom**

**Communications Subcommittee (CsC)**  
**Meeting Notes: 2/28/22 @ 9 – 10:15 a.m.**

Meeting Objectives:

- Get acquainted with one another: brief bios, interests, skills
- Understand CsC responsibilities & expectations of members
- Review 2022 work plan
- Discuss & initiate assignments

Meeting Participants:

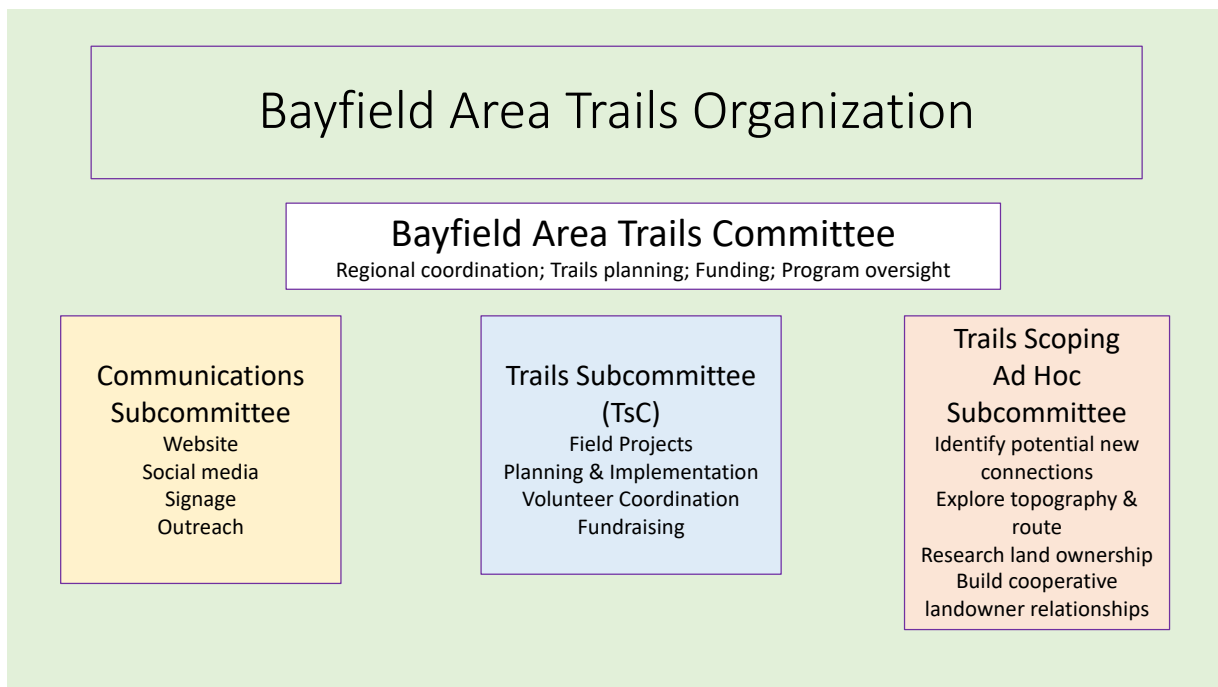
- Kate Kitchell: BAT Comm. Chair; City Parks & Rec. Committee Chair; retired federal land manager.
- Tony Jeannette: TJoseph Media; pioneered development of BATs website & social media presence; launched the CsC; going forward will provide tech. support for website, blog posts, & FB posts.
- Liz Fentress: retired playwright; first BATs blogger & original member who helped launch the CsC.
- Kurt Dicke: retired engineer, worked in software industry; new to the BATs volunteer team; lives 2 blocks from Big Ravine East Rim Trail; really appreciates the trails & wants to help.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions: Kate reviewed the organization (attached below) to put the CsC into context.
2. CsC Subcommittee charter: Liz reviewed the charter that prompted some discussion of BATs mission; focusing on education and information vs. promoting the trails.
3. Review & discuss the 2022 work plan (see spreadsheet)
  - a. **Tony's role:** Take content provided by CsC and post it on website; create FB posts from blog content. Maintain website and FB page.
  - b. **Liz explained blog content & process:** Timing of field projects is known based upon emails that go out to the BATs email list to recruit volunteers. Blogger visits field projects, interviews volunteers, writes blog content about the project, people, funders, and weaves in other info./key messages (e.g. cultural and natural history, environmental stewardship, safety, etiquette, etc.); takes photos to accompany blog post. Once the blog content has been drafted, Kate provides review & suggested edits. Final blog & photos provided to Tony via Google drive folder to post on website. Tony works from the blog content to produce FB post with photo.
  - c. **Kate reviewed the workplan** to discuss potential assignments etc.
    - i. The current workplan has been developed around trails field projects: announcing upcoming activities and reporting on trails projects. The other main component is signage.
    - ii. The group discussed the many opportunities to expand website & blog content beyond just reporting on field projects. For example, natural and cultural history and unique features of the various trails. All ideas welcome!
4. Initial assignments (see spreadsheet)
  - a. Liz & Kurt will work together on blogs for the first 2 field projects:
    - i. Pulling forget-me-nots in late April/early May. Exact timing will depend on when the plants start to show up.



- ii. Iron Bridge viewshed planting on May 7<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Kurt will research options for making trail maps easily accessible via phone app. This may be coordinated with reps. from the Trails Subcommittee who could potentially GPS the trails.
  - c. Neil Howk called Kate after the meeting to follow-up; he was not able to attend the meeting, but is still interested. He volunteered to take the lead on the sign projects.
  - d. After the meeting, Kate took the liberty to propose some other assignments for blog posts. These can be revised at the March meeting.
5. Next Meeting: March 28 @ 9:00 a.m. via zoom
- a. Kurt: report on map access & next steps (including GPS trails)
  - b. Workplan: discuss updates; solidify assignments
  - c. Discuss new ideas & follow-up
  - d. Scheduling future meetings: set standard date/time? Monthly or quarterly? Or as needed?





**Bayfield Area Trails Committee**  
**2022 New Trails Scoping Ad Hoc Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Notes: March 3, 2022 @ 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

- Participants: Matt Carrier, Jon & Jennifer Crump, Kate Kitchell, Sheree Peterson,
- Unable to attend, but indicated intent to participate: Ted May, Leo Stern
- Others who signed up in response to January Community Survey: Kurt Dicke\*, Kate Johnson, Paul Kaese, Nick Dangeur.
  - \*Note: Kurt is on the Communications subcommittee and is exploring GPS mapping of trails and making the trail maps accessible for free for trail users.

**Welcome & Introductions**

- Introduce ourselves and our interests
- Refresh on BAT Committee organization and where this fits

The group reviewed and discussed information relevant for the possible 2022 new trails for scoping (see document: 2022 New Trails Scoping Process)

- BATs online map of potential new linkages,
- 2022 New Trails Scoping Process document. All potential linkages were discussed.
- County interactive GIS maps as a tool (also note Managed Forest Program maps available online)
- **Key Discussion Points:**
  - Other possibilities: 160 acres owned by the school west of the intersection of County J & Valley Rd. (listed as owned by the State of Wisconsin); the school also owns another parcel on Turner Rd.
  - How to prioritize where to focus our efforts:
    - Where there is greatest potential for use and public benefit
    - Maximize travel on public properties.
    - Opportunities to create loops and/or destination trails
    - Where we think the landowners may be receptive.
  - The group identified the **first/best priority to focus** on: area west of the city where there are opportunities to create connections among Brownstone and the City to the Big Ravine above the cemetery and the Apostle Highlands to the City and the Big Ravine.
    - Potentially receptive landowners: Bill Bailey & Gayle Chatfield; Ted & Mary Doherty; Tim & Sally Buck;
    - This can/should be coordinated with City Parks & Rec. Committee, City Public Works, and City Council. Carrier & Kitchell can help facilitate this.
  - The group identified Brownstone to Salmo as the next priority. Some initial personal conversations will be initiated to test the water:
    - Kathleen will talk with Dee Johnson
    - Phil (Sheree) Peterson will talk with Dawn Nixon
  - Other potential linkages will remain on the table and explored as opportunities occur.
    - Kate will talk with Janel & Rich Ryan and continue coordination with Hauser's Superior View Farm.
    - Kate will continue to coordinate on the Big Ravine wetlands connection to the Wineries.

**Next Meeting: April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5 p.m. @ Apostle Islands Realty** (Kathleen will confirm): discuss the "Spring Hill" trails on the City's west side.

- **Then...Schedule a follow-up for mid-May**