



Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes Tuesday May 10th @ 3 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)

Participants:

- Committee members present: Finn, Kitchell, Lang, Rothe, Fahrenkrog joined around 4 p.m.
- Committee members absent: Bratsch, Van Stappen, Meierotto (replacing Van Bergen)
- Communications Subcommittee: none present
- Trails Subcommittee: John Ipsen, Kris Wegerson

Vice-chair: Kitchell recommended selecting a Vice-chair to lead in the Chair's absence. Committee members concurred with this recommendation; but suggested to take it under advisement.

Action: Nomination and selecting Vice-chair will occur at June meeting.

Round Robin Reports from Committee members

1. **NPS** (Van Stappen): absent
2. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe): The Pratt's Peak trails proposal has met substantial resistance from residents in the Town of Bayfield, especially those who live near the area. CTC gave a presentation to the Town of Bayfield Board on 3/14; significant Q&A and public concern were expressed. The primary concerns revolve around this special area being lesser known, and that trail development may lead to heavier use and subsequent change in the character and experience on Pratt's Peak. Other concerns were expressed about being mindful about the area's rich history, including association with the Belanger Settlement.
 - Town Board Chair, Tom Gordon, sent a letter to Jason Bodine, Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Administrator, expressing these concerns. Additionally, the Town indicated that this proposal did not consider the Town Comprehensive Plan and there was lack of notice to the Town to request input prior to proceeding with plans on Pratt's Peak.
 - As the lead manager with responsibility for Pratt's Peak lands, Jason will take public input under advisement as things proceed.
 - Jason has indicated that it is not a common practice to confer with the Townships when issuing Special Use Agreements on County land.
 - This topic will be on the Forestry & Parks Committee agenda on 6/13.
 - The County is planning a site visit soon.
 - CTC plans to take things slowly as the County considers the Town and public's input.
 - CTC is interested in further researching and understanding the area's history; including the idea of some interpretive signage about this topic.
 - Some basic field work has been done: relocated the vista area and fine-tuned trail locations.
 - **Action:** aim for volunteer work around 6/15 – 6/23
 - Plans for funding signage have been put on back burner for now. These 2022 funds may be redirected to other BATs projects.
 - Lessons learned: know the jurisdiction of project locations; communicate early and often.
3. **County** (Bratsch): absent
 - Rothe mentioned that the County has grant funding (\$15K +/-) for Siskiwit Trails. These funds need to be spent by end of June. Lang reported that County & Landmark identified trail route on the West Side of the creek, but no clear plans for the East side. There will likely be a site visit soon.
4. **Town of Bayfield** (Fahrenkrog & Kitchell):
 - Big Ravine Wetlands: funding has been secured for purchase and initiating trails. YAY!
 - **Action: Kitchell & Lang** will coordinate on how to proceed with completing the purchase; Kitchell will lead the trails and signage efforts.

- Pikes Creek Trail: Kitchell & Steve Vizanko will do final route flagging soon; then there will be a field walk through with DNR. The goal is to obtain DNR permit soon, hopefully in June. Bridge designs and costs are still being researched. Some grants and donations have been secured for trail construction. Three more grants have been submitted for the trail and the bridge. Fundraising for matching funds will be forthcoming, likely in July.
- Construction on County J for 1-2 months
- 5. **Landmark (Lang):** Brownstone Trail is their focus in Bayfield Area:
 - Still negotiating purchase agreement with Maki family. Hopefully it will be signed within a few weeks.
 - Fundraising brochure and appeal will be forthcoming:
 - Phase 1: \$925K by end of 2022: land purchase & move of bus business.
 - Phase 2 in 2023: restoration of site and trail
 - Phase 1 & 2 total cost: \$1.3M
 - 1st & 3rd week of the month: they will be leading hikes on BST
 - Aiming to install a reroute of trail for foot traffic this year, after agreement is signed.
 - **Action:** Kitchell & Lang to visit site to identify route, costs, and project plan.
 - Will need to reconstruct barrier at reroute location.
 - BATs volunteers may help.
- 6. **Ashwabab (AOEF) (Finn):**
 - The merger of Big Top and AOEF is complete. Kim Ogle is Board President, Chuck Finn is Vice-Pres. Chuck will continue as AOEF rep. on BATs.
 - Old bridge on Jolly Long is shot. There is a need to replace it.
 - Working on re-designing the trail system with some additional trails and moving toward more double-track nordic.
 - Will likely need some volunteer help in the fall.
- 7. **City: (Kitchell)**
 - Upcoming Big Ravine projects: 5/14: viewshed planting; 5/21-29: school trail & Gil Larsen step rebuild; 6/24 -30 West Rim maintenance
 - Bird walk on 5/14 with Neil Howk
- 8. **Red Cliff (Meierotto):** Vanbergen left TNR
 - *Letter regarding BATs incorporation
 - **Action:** Kitchell will send a letter of acknowledgement, appreciation of Tribe's ongoing involvement and great work by Van Bergen...etc.

Trails Subcommittee (TsC): Kitchell, Ipsen, Wegerson, Johnson

- *Projects schedule: Kitchell
 - **Action:** Update to reflect Pratt's Peak 6/15 – 6/23
- Governance update (defer final approval until the June meeting): Wegerson
 - Charter revisions:
 - Increased to 12 members (11 filled)
 - 2 co-chairs to share leadership
 - BAT chair to serve as advisor/liaison rather than TsC member
 - TsC membership to be recommended for approval in June
 - Co-chairs to be selected at May meeting
- Trainings update: Ipsen
 - 7 BATs volunteers completed chainsaw training sponsored by USFS
 - 3 of the 7 completed the required CPR/First Aid
 - 4 of the 7 still need SPR/First Aid: working with RFR to provide this course locally.
- Adopt-a-Trail program: feedback & general endorsement: Kitchell
 - General support expressed

- Update procedure to have adopter contact the land manager/owner directly with any significant or safety issues with cc to BATs gmail address.

Communications Subcommittee (CsC): Kitchell

- General report: working on blog/Facebook posts; sign planning for trails and interpretation.
- Kurt Dicke is researching/developing approach for delivering maps via phone apps.: this is a work in progress: Kitchell
- Propose “introducing” BAT Comm members via email & website post– see CORE Resources example (email sent separately) – ran out of time, so did not discuss

New Trails Scoping Ad Hoc Subcommittee: Kitchell

- Focusing on connection between City’s west side and the Big Ravine Trails on the west side above soccer field.

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement (5 min.): Finn

- Agreement approved by RFR Board of Directors
- Agreement has been signed by Kitchell on behalf of BATs and by the RFR Board Chair, Michelle Shrider
- Account established with seed funding

Wrap Up:

Next Meeting Topics:

Adjourn:

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday June 14th @ 3 p.m.