

Bayfield Area Trails Committee
Zoom Meeting Notes: Tuesday August 9 @ 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Bratsch, Finn, Kitchell, Lang, Rothe

Committee Members Absent: Fahrenkrog, Van Stappen, Red Cliff Rep.

Others Present: Ipsen, Wegerson

1. Proposals for a) a contemporary, consolidated, accurate map (digital & hard copy) of the Bayfield Area Trails; b) socioeconomic study of Bayfield Area Trails. There is funding available to support one or both of these proposals, and it is time-sensitive.

Mapping project key discussion points:

- The Town Board voted to support these proposals as presented; and committed \$6,000 from ARPA funds.
- They Town is especially interested in the EMS aspect of the mapping.
- Jamie Paterson, a Town of Bayfield resident with great GIS and mapping expertise, is interested in helping.
- Landmark plans to still print the existing brochure. It has a master map, but it is not georeferenced. Erika will explore the idea of “merging” the brochure with the proposed broader mapping proposal. However, the “Landmark” map is currently funded by business sponsorships; this broader proposal may be too much of a stretch.
- The County’s existing story map for non-motorized trails may be a starting point. It was developed by and is currently maintained by the County Land Records staff – Sofia Kozidis sofia.kozidis@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov. However, it is outdated.
- Jen indicated that this mapping proposal is the type of thing that Sofia does; thus it may be possible for her to take this project on as part of her standard work program. Of course, it depends upon other work priorities.
- The mapping products and process must be designed for constant change and revision.
- It is essential to have a good process for data stewardship, product review, and revisions.
- It may be possible to include the review of the maps and associated content as part of the Adopt-a-Trail program where adopters review the information on an annual basis (or as changes occur). Spring would be a logical review time.
- This should start first with electronic/digital and online products. Hard copies would follow when we are confident that the product is solid and accurate.
- AWB is an especially challenging situation due to the number of interconnecting trails and the variety of uses.
- This project needs leadership and coordination by a technical expert.

Mapping project next steps/action items:

- Kate will contact Scott and Sofia at County Land Records as well as Mary Motiff at the County Tourism office to inform them of this proposal and seek collaboration opps.
- Convene a meeting with Scott, Sofia, Jen, and possibly Mary and Jamie Paterson to discuss the proposal, the potential role of the County Land Records staff, possible funding needs, and next steps.
- Report back to BAT Comm. on the meeting results and next steps.
- The group agreed to hold off on pursuing matching funds until we have a clearer picture of costs for 1) accessing the needed technical expertise; 2) developing the desired products; 3) maintaining the products; 4) printing maps.

Socioeconomic Study Key Discussion Points:

- Having a good inventory and maps of the trails will be an important starting point for this proposal.

- Members see the benefits and needs for this project: Finn is especially views this as a priority.
- This will need to be done by a specialist in this field. The group brainstormed possible contacts:
 - Erika mentioned some UM professors and possible UW connections.
 - U.W. Extension is a highly likely resource.
 - CAMBA may have some ideas based upon their experience with the Cable/Hayward project.
 - Kate had previously contacted Kellie Pedersen at U.W. Extension, but she only referenced the CAMBA study.

Socioeconomic Study next steps/action items:

- Erika will ask her husband Jon for contacts at U.W. Madison
 - Peter will talk to Ron Bergin at CAMBA for ideas
 - Chuck will contact colleagues from U.M.
 - Kate will prepare an outreach note; will ask Mike Friis at WCMP for ideas and will contact U.W. Extension. She will share this note with the Committee so they can use it for networking purposes.
2. Coordinating the Adopt-a-Trail program: Kate reviewed the report tracking spreadsheet. Most reports have been filed and have helped to facilitate addressing maintenance issues. We are learning as we go. Pratt's Peak is uncertain at this time.
 3. Considering a Trails Open House this fall: possibly in conjunction with dedication of the Big Ravine Headwaters purchase: The consensus of the members is to keep this simple; focus on information sharing and building comradery/socializing. Don't take on more commitments until we get the current projects completed.
 - Purpose & Scope: a) dedication of the B.R. wetlands purchase; b) celebrate success & say thank you; c) expand volunteer and "membership" base; d) initiate fundraising for the Hatchery Trail bridge.
 - Location: Bayfield Winery/Blue Ox Cidery
 - Date & Time: Saturday October 15th @ 9 a.m. - Noon
 - Refreshments: donuts, cider, coffee
 - COVID considerations?
 - Other: we hope to have a mowed trail that connects the wetlands to the Winery as well as over to Gracie's Trail.
 - Promote the Bayfield Community Cider fundraiser for AOEF

Action: Kate will coordinate with Colleen Beagan (volunteered to assist) and Phil Bratsch about agenda, assignments, logistics, refreshments, and outreach.
 4. Discussion of priority projects:
 - Pikes Creek Hatchery Trail: approval received from DNR and we are moving forward. RFP for construction will be published 8/16 – 23. The Town established a subcommittee to provide oversight. To start in October; complete by Nov. 15.
 - Fire Tower planning: the proposal was shared with the agenda; no discussion.
 - Big Ravine Headwaters purchase: undergoing appraisal review.
 - Brownstone Trail reroute: Erika still needs to meet with the Makis in prep. for Northland student project on Sept. 2nd. We hope to get things in place on that date and shortly thereafter.

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 13th @ 3 p.m.