



Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday September 12th @ 3 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)

Participants:

- Committee members present: Clark, Huinker, Kitchell, Lang, Mattson, Rothe, Van Stappen
- Committee members absent: Finn
- Trails Subcommittee present: Ipsen, Johnson, May, Wegerson
- Communications Subcommittee present:
- Others present:

Agenda

1. Rapid Round Robin Reports
 - a. **County** (Mattson):
 - i. Siskiwit River Preserve work completed with volunteer assistance: Steps on river access trail; brushing & gravel on orchard trail.
 - ii. Upcoming work on Lost Creek Trail – will engage volunteers when needed.
 - b. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe): Continuing to work with the County on Siskiwit.
 - c. **Landmark** (Lang): Focusing on Brownstone Trail.
 - i. Property transferred into County ownership.
 - ii. Continuing restoration planning.
 - iii. Fundraising & grants: received a LUG grant; applying for a TAP grant
 - iv. Depending on grants and fundraising, the restoration work may be delayed until 2025.
 - v. Dan Maki will be working on the swale & area below the end of south 7th St.
 - vi. Still planning to remove asphalt ramp at south 7th St. and to replace with box steps with the assistance of BATs volunteers.
 - vii. Erika reported that they intend to have the box culverts go away in the long-term.
 - viii. Landmark does not intend to do any gravel or ditching along the Brownstone by the steps south of Blue Wing Bay Rd. or below Wild Rice Retreat. Ipsen, Wegerson, & Kitchell will consider pursuing these projects, depending on available time and capacity. Kitchell indicated that there is funding available in the Town's trails budget to purchase gravel.
 - ix. Wisconsin Coastal Management Program will be hosting NOAA (federal agency that provides CM funding) a visit to the Bayfield Peninsula on 9/25. Stops will include Siskiwit, Frog Bay, & Brownstone. BATs and Big Ravine will be also featured during the Bayfield site visit.
 - d. **Town of Bayfield:** (Kitchell) (see #5 below)
 - i. Town Board approved interpretive sign proposal from Bob Mackreth about train wreck to be installed on Salmo Trail. Sign is in design process. To be installed this fall.
 - e. **City** (Clark):

- i. The City Parks & Rec. Committee is exploring a new trail link from the south end of Martin Rd. at the cemetery to the water tanks at the south end of Chipmunk Trail via the Sweeny Ave. right of way.
 - 1. **Action:** Matt Carrier plans to lead a field trip with Jon Crump, Fred Clark, & Kate Kitchell to flag the route.
 - ii. Bay Area Environmental Consulting (BAEC) is completing restoration & erosion control work on the School Trail hillside.
 - iii. Mike Kinnee built a nice foot bridge across a small drainage at the bottom of the Sweeny Switchback, plus box steps.
 - f. **Ashwabay (AOEF)** (Finn): not present
 - g. **Red Cliff** (Huinker):
 - i. Trails Feasibility Study (including Red Cliff to Bayfield): RFP has been issued and sent to 6 contractors. Responses due 10/11/23. Planning to obligate funds in 2024.
 - h. **APIS/NPS:** (Van Stappen):
 - i. Friends of the Apostle Islands is approaching their fundraising goal for the Meyers Beach ADA ramp.
 - ii. ADA boardwalk on Sand Island is getting close to completion. It will be over 2 miles long when completed.
 - iii. Seeking funds to implement new trails at Little Sand Bay. These trails were analyzed and available for public comment in an EA earlier this year.
- 2. Review Vision & Mission statement: Peter, Kate, Fred
 - a. See notes at the end of this document for details
 - b. **Action Next Steps:** Develop recommended revised language and rationale:
 - i. Peter – serve as the lead with Peter, Fred, Ted, Kate.
 - ii. Goal: come back to Committee December meeting.
- 3. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):
 - a. **Action:** Approved sending letter of support for County application.
 - b. **Action:** Approved sending letter of support for Brownstone Trail application
 - c. **Action:** Kitchell will send letters.
- 4. Trails Subcommittee Report & Input from BAT Comm. (TsC):
 - a. Adopt a Trail (AAT) report: Johnson reported that the trail segment list is being updated, including renumbering segments so it can be easily searched by land manager (e.g. County, City, Town).
 - b. Improving the process for volunteer time tracking (self-reporting?)
 - i. To date, Kitchell compiled time based upon crew schedules & standard AAT hours; now it's more complicated as more volunteers are working independently, including on the AAT.
 - ii. **Action:** The Trails Subcommittee will work on this.
- 5. Projects Report/Status: see attached calendar
 - a. Siskiwit River Preserve – County (Mattson)
 - i. Several trail improvements done with assistance of volunteers.
 - b. Big Ravine Headwaters: COMPLETE!

- i. Kiosk & all signs installed: Rolland Kiel, Ted & Tracy May, Kris Wegerson & John Ipsen, Michael Eldred & Kate Kitchell.
 - ii. Loop trail built – special thanks to Kris & John for leading the trail crews!
 - iii. Phil Bratsch mowed path to Winery/Cidery & to Gracie’s Trail
 - iv. Viewing platform built – special thanks to Bob Feyen, Jim Steffenson & Michael Eldred
 - v. Other volunteers: Janel & Rich Ryan, Rich Metcalfe, Mike Kinnee, Neil Howk, Paul Kaese, Mark Peterson.
 - vi. Volunteer time: 100 + hrs. from 17 volunteers.
- c. Meme Miikana: Lead: Ted May
 - i. Bridge installed by Anderson Bridges on Wed. Aug. 30th.
 - ii. Access trail/road will require rehab. – may need volunteer assistance
 - iii. Bridge looks lovely and safely crosses the creek
 - iv. Bridge was late & may be subject to a 10% penalty on final payment
 - v. Bridge does not meet all of the contract specs
 - vi. On site meeting with DNR forthcoming
 - vii. Follow-up with contractor will be led by Town Board Chair Craig Hoopman
 - viii. Construction of final segment boardwalks is underway under Ted May’s leadership with volunteer crews.
 - ix. Sign plan has been drafted. After selection of the new trail name & review and approval by the DNR, we will purchase signs and install them.
- d. Building the connection between Meme & AWB trails/trailhead:
 - i. Doug Olson at AWB plans to clear trail with a large brush mower – waiting on equipment availability.
 - ii. Next steps will be determined after this clearing.
- e. Brownstone Trail Projects: Landmark
 - i. Gravel & ditches on segment near Wild Rice
 - ii. Box steps near Seagull Bay Motel (Landmark owns the property)
- 6. Naming the new link from Meme Miikana to AWB trailhead: Kate et al
 - a. Coordination with Red Cliff on Ojibwemowin naming: Kitchell followed up with Tribal Chair, Nicole Boyd, who directed Kitchell to follow up with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), Marvin DeFoe. Follow up is pending.
 - b. Ashley Huinker has contacted THPO DeFoe to ask for guidance.
 - c. Discussion ensued about how/why BAT Comm started the concept of naming with Ojibwemowin names.
 - d. The County does not have a policy for trail naming.
 - e. Lang asked if there may be an animal that represents the concept of unity or bringing together (as this proposed trail will be a link to AWB).
 - f. **Action:** Defer further discussion until feedback is received from THPO DeFoe.
 - g. **Action:** Make trail naming protocol a priority topic on the October agenda.
 - i. Discuss & possibly decide on BAT Comm trail naming protocol
 - ii. How should we select new trail names?
 - iii. If the Tribe supports the concept, when should we use Ojibwemowin naming?

1. When the trail occurs in a location with a traditional name?
2. When a name is selected that has a feasible Ojibwemowin translation?
- iv. Possible name options – can be selected with or without Tribal concurrence:
 1. Ruffed Grouse Trail: Bine Miikana
 2. Blue Jay Way: Diindiisi Miikana
7. Communications Subcommittee Report & Input from BAT Comm (CsC):
 - a. Blog & Facebook post on Big Ravine Headwaters - posted
 - b. Blog & Facebook post on Siskiwit projects - forthcoming
 - c. Blog & Facebook post on Meme Miikana – on hold until bridge issues are being resolved
 - d. Adding trail stats under new data library tab on the website
 - e. Updating trail narratives for new trails
8. Project dedications/celebrations: when, where, next steps?
 - a. B.R. Headwaters
 - b. Meme Miikana
9. Economic Impact Study Update: still on hold
10. Future Meetings: @ 3 – 4:30 p.m.
 - a. October 10th
 - b. November 14th
 - c. December 12th
11. Future Agenda Topics:
 - Trail Naming Protocol
 - Revise Vision and Mission Statement
 - Long-term planning: Trails Forum Feedback follow up

ADJOURN

NOTES FROM COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Bayfield Area Trails Mission & Revision Review – September 2023

Goals to be met in revised BAT Mission and Vision statements:

- The **geographic scope** in the current Mission and Vision statements is centered around the City of Bayfield. This is geographically too narrow and thus misleading. Using “Bayfield County” as a description would be too broad, as it inaccurately suggests that BAT scope and interests potentially extend to the southern portions of the county. The term used should be easily recognizable and also both defining a region but at the same time slightly vague in scope.
- **To better define the geographic range of BAT**, not change the fundamental philosophy contained within the current statements. Therefore, changing the non-geographic language should be avoided. This will help keep the process focused and less complicated.
- The geographic range described in the statements should **cover all current BAT core member territories and current trails plus limited adjacent areas** of possible future prudent expansion.
- **Goal is to not change the name of the organization** itself (Bayfield Area Trails), as the current name is well established, well recognized and general enough in geographic scope to not necessitate a change.

CURRENT LANGUAGE	PROPOSED REVISION 1	PROPOSED REVISION 2
Our Vision (website & MOU): A well-managed multiple-use trails(?) network interconnecting the City of Bayfield, the community of Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Towns of Bayfield & Bell.	Vision: A well-managed unified trail network connecting Bayfield area communities.	
Our Mission (MOU): To develop and sustain the Bayfield Area Trails network with active public involvement.	Add "support" at the end of the sentence.	
Our Mission (website): To create and sustain a multiple-use trails network in and around the City of Bayfield with active public involvement and support.	Update website to reflect the language above	
Website Homepage Banner: A unified trail network connecting Bayfield Area Communities	Update website to reflect the revised vision	

Discussion Points:

- Should we clarify our focus on non-motorized?
- There are plusses to keeping the door open to include motorized/multiple use.
- Should we consider Bayfield Peninsula?
- Bayfield region?
- Broader Bayfield area.
- Is broader vetting & feedback needed? Recommendation is no further vetting is needed due to the minor nature of the proposed changes.

Next Steps:

Peter – serve as the lead with Peter, Fred, Ted, Kate.

Goal: come back to Committee December meeting.