



**Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> @ 3 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)**

Participants:

- Committee members present: Bratsch, Finn, Kitchell, Rothe
- Committee members absent: Fahrenkrog (called away at last minute for Governor visit); Lang (plans changed due to inclement weather); Van Stappen; Red Cliff (currently no rep. assigned).
- Communications Subcommittee: none present
- Trails Subcommittee: none present

Round Robin Reports from Committee members (5 min./each)

1. **Landmark** (Lang):

- a. Big Ravine Headwaters Acquisition project - Landmark Conservancy and the Town of Bayfield closed on this property last Friday with the seller, Ed Rabideaux, present. All went well! I was recalling that this project had been seeded a long time, at least since 2015 when Erica Peterson and I chatted about its possibilities. I thanked Ed for his patience and willingness to sell and for doing his part to leave a conservation legacy. He seemed proud to have been a part of it (even if he didn't agree to a bargain sale!). The Town of Bayfield now owns the property. Landmark Conservancy's staff and board will discuss including this 10 acre property in the conservation easement that already exists on the 20 acre property to the south. There is staff support to do this. If we do that, we will likely combine both existing conservation easements (there is an easement on the 20 acres and an easement on the 35 acres that the Town owns) into one document. This consolidation will increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness of stewardship and monitoring activities. It is not yet known if there will be a cost to the Town for this easement action.
- b. Brownstone Trail - we are now over halfway toward meeting our \$1.2 million fundraising goal and we plan to close by the end of the year. While the reroute on the Maki property has been cleared, we need help moving the barrier fence (it will be set up a bit more temporary until spring when a fencing contractor can put up a more robust, longer-lasting fence) and staking and roping the route. My assistant, Charly, who would normally lead this is out of commission with a crushed thumb for at least another month. Kate, if we could chat about how to get some BATs volunteers together for this in early November, that would be great.

2. **County** (Bratsch): Fire Tower Hill, Siskiwit, & others

- a. Campgrounds winding down.
- b. Gearing up for snowmobile season: working on re-establishing snowmobile route access to and from the Legendary Waters Casino. This would include reroute across east side of Rice property next to the mustang ranch, through Weidinger property. Much of this is spearheaded by Randy, the County trail groomer.
- c. Siskiwit Preserve: recently completed some additional trails, focused on the west side. Decisions still need to be made about a route on the east side of the creek. Jen is talking with Steve Vizanko about possibly having Bayfield Nordic groom xc trails. **ACTION:** schedule a site visit with Cornucopia Trails Club (CTC) and Lindley Mattson to determine volunteer projects; schedule volunteer work day. Peter Rothe will coordinate with Lindley.
- d. Fire Tower Hill trails plan: \$10K funding is available from WCMP; \$10K matching is in the County's proposed budget and expected to be approved.

3. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe):

- a. See notes about Siskiwit Preserve trails: working with the County on these trails.
- b. Pratt's Peak: the trails proposed by CTC remain very sensitive with local residents in The Settlement. There is concern that pushing too hard on this could undermine broader support for trails in the Town of Bayfield and other areas. There is already development in place,

notably snowmobile trails and timber harvesting with access roads. Perhaps CTC could focus on getting permission from the County to clear the lake view before trees get any larger. Then, continue open dialog about non-motorized trails. There is substantial interest in the Cornie community to enhance access: focus is on enhancing quality of life and recreational opportunities for LOCAL residents, not for promotion to tourists.

- c. **ACTION:** Peter will coordinate with Jason Bodine to schedule a zoom meeting to discuss Pratt's Peak.
4. **Red Cliff** (TBD – Meierotto has moved to BIA): Kitchell commented that she'll look for an opportunity to ask Tribal Chair, Rick Peterson, about designating a rep. from Red Cliff. Frog Bay Trails need attention and may be a good collaborative project opportunity in 2023.
5. **Ashwabab (AOEF)** (Finn):
  - a. Ashwabab Alliance is moving along well. They are doing long-term facility planning such as septic, sewage, possible new lay out of entertainment venue and nordic ski access.
  - b. They have significant concerns about lack of phone reception at some AWB locations. Discussion ensued. This topic rests with County law enforcement/search and rescue.
  - c. Brushing and mowing the ski hill and trails in prep. for ski season.
  - d. Working on rebuilding Black Bear: has been approved by DNR, funded by North Star Ski Touring Club grant (submitted by Kitchell on behalf of AOEF).
  - e. Still interested/supportive of a snowshoe connecting trail to the new Pikes Creek Tributary Trail.
  - f. They have successfully worked with Xcel so that there is no conflict between the nordic ski trails & Xcel's work during this upcoming winter season. Xcel will defer the potentially conflicting work to next spring, after ski season.
  - g. Jolly Long Loop bridge remains an issue. Need to get on the same page with DNR and this will require significant funding. Perhaps start to focus on this in 2023.
6. **Town of Bayfield** (Fahrenkrog): see Big Ravine Headwaters under Landmark Report and Pikes Creek Trail report below.
7. **NPS** (Van Stappen):
8. **City:** (Kitchell): Big Ravine – Gil Larsen Trail boardwalk replaced! No funding for trails in 2023.

#### Ongoing Business:

1. Open House deferred to spring (5 min.): all agreed that this was a good decision. Will revisit in February or March to plan for spring kick-off event.
2. Pikes Creek Tributary Trail (10 min.) (map of trail & AWB connector at the end): work has begun!
  - a. Land use agreement is being finalized & processed for signature
  - b. Segment A received some chainsaw clearing; subsequent clearing will be led by Doug Olson at Ashwabab this month. Thank you AWB.
  - c. Segment B has been cleared; finish work of leveling tread, creating proper drainage, and building small bridge/boardwalk to be completed in end of October – early November.
  - d. The Town appointed a subcommittee to oversee contracting trail construction: they have contracted with Will Krift of Trails Anonymous to construct Segment C; construction occurring 10/17 – 10/31. Volunteer schedule & project logistics distributed to all.
  - e. Scoping connection to AWB trailhead with County & AWB needs to occur.
  - f. Several donations were made in response to a request in support of constructing the trail this fall. Unspent funds will be invested in the bridge in 2023.
  - g. Bridge in 2023. Exploring design & construction options. Did not get RTP grant. Submitting a grant application to WCMP. Fundraising campaign will be needed (\$55K).
  - h. Need to come up with a name: Pikes Creek Tributary Trail?
  - i. Working on sign plan for installation next year – to be coordinated with AWB (Ashley) & County (Lindley)
3. Mapping & Socioeconomics Projects (\$12K WCMP funds & Town of Bayfield \$6K) (10 min.):

- a. Mapping: slow going – aim for more discussion in Nov./Dec.
  - i. In August, we had a good meeting with County GIS/Land Records Staff, Jen B., & Jamie Paterson. County staff is very supportive of collaborating. All agreed that adding the EMS signs and GPS locations should be a part of this project.
  - ii. Jamie is developing a georeferenced database for trails, testing it first in the Big Ravine. Ultimately, we would like to be able to use this for the Adopt-a-Trail program.
  - iii. There is still a need to figure out how to display different types of uses on trails, most notably at AWB.
  - iv. Currently, we have not identified a specific funding need to support this project. If anything, it may be for emergency signage.
- b. Socioeconomics:
  - i. Up to \$18,000 currently available: \$12K from WCMP and \$6K from Town ARPA funds.
  - ii. No new progress. But, all agreed that this study is extremely important. It would inform community, trail partners, and elected officials about the economic benefits/costs, attitudes and expectations related to trails, as well as the impacts to quality of life for residents.
  - iii. Peter Rothe's inquiry with Ron Bergin at CAMBA gathered lots of very helpful information, especially regarding JEM grant funding, example products, potential UW Extension contacts, and methodology. It seems that the CAMBA project could provide a template that could be applied to the Bayfield area.
  - iv. **ACTION:** Kitchell will contact the UW Extension researchers, and possibly schedule a zoom meeting with them and BAT Comm. reps. Rothe will contact Ron Bergin to get an idea of possible cost.

New Trails Scoping Ad Hoc Subcommittee: (10 min.) Kitchell

Westside Trail concept proposal (attachment prepared by Jon Crump)

- a. Recon. And landowner coordination May – August
- b. 1 landowner supportive & 1 opposed to initial proposal due to potential impacts to adjacent properties
- c. Starting to explore alternatives
- d. Concept introduced at Oct. City Parks & Rec. Committee
- e. Finn reported that he has had some discussions with folks; discussion needs to continue, but it is important to take the time to discuss, seek input, evaluated alternatives; do not push too hard or fast.

Trails Subcommittee (TsC) (5 min.) (see minutes)

Communications Subcommittee (CsC) (5 min.):

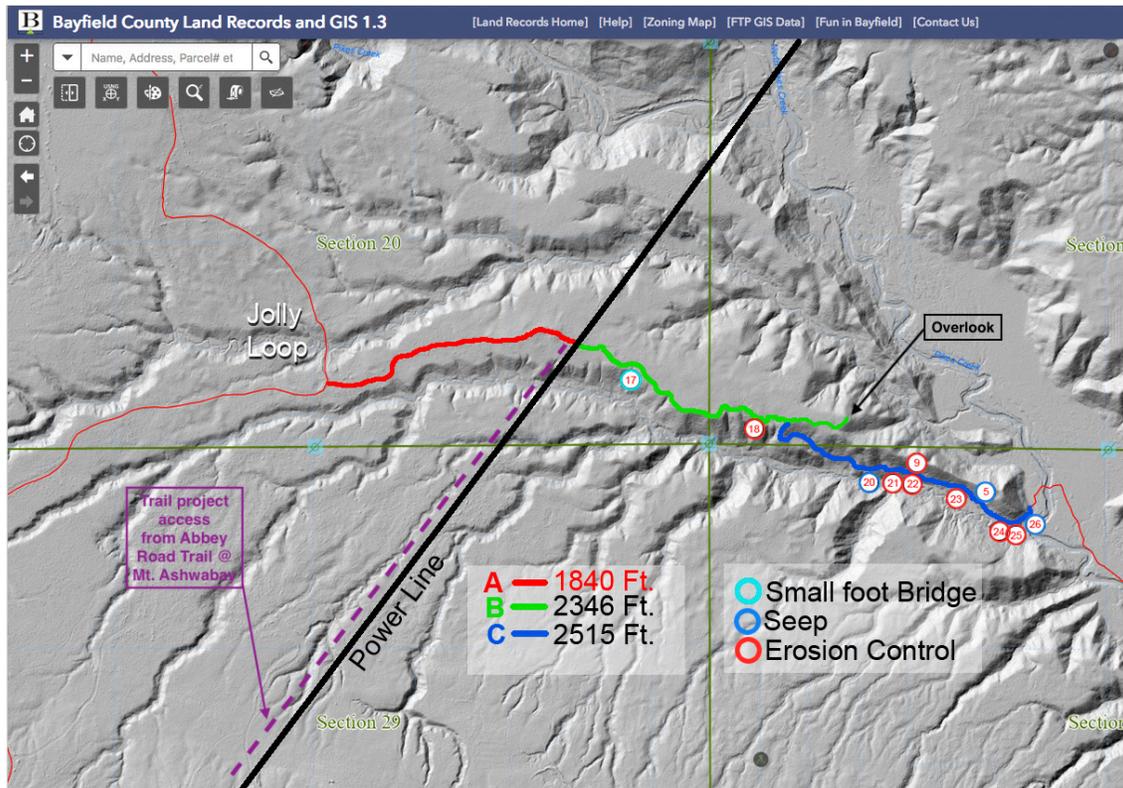
- a. Liz Fentress and Mark Peterson have produced several blog and Facebook posts on projects & trail alerts.
- b. Interpretive signage: Neil Howk is the lead. Starting to think about designing potential interp. signs at 1) Big Ravine Headwaters; 2) Jerry Jolly Trailhead (County); 3) Pikes Creek/Hatchery Trail; 4) Salmo Trail.

Future Meeting Topics? Open discussion: reflections on Bayfield Area Trails Committee

- What is going well and why?
- What can be improved & how?

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3 p.m.**

### PIKES CREEK TRIBUTARY TRAIL



### POTENTIAL CONNECTION FROM PIKES CREEK TRIBUTARY TRAIL TO AWB

