



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

Participants:

- Committee members present: Fahrenkrog, Kitchell, Rothe, Van Stappen
- Committee members absent: Bratsch, Finn
- Communications Subcommittee: none
- Trails Subcommittee: Ipsen, Johnson, Wegerson

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

1. **Landmark** (Lang): Brownstone Trail re-route volunteer project planned for Sat. 11/12 @ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be exciting to get this done!
2. **County** (Bratsch): not present
3. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe):
 - Held a very successful volunteer project at Siskiwit Preserve on 10/30: 20 volunteers, working for 2-3 hours; completely finished the tasks. Construction of the small bridge over the low spot on the north end of the trail was done by the county (John and Lindley) plus volunteer Alan Hahn. Bayfield County and Bayfield Nordic are very pleased with accomplishments. The XC trail is all set for XC skiing this winter!
 - The County will likely establish an agreement with Bayfield Nordic to groom the trail.
 - The new trail on the west side of the River is very nice.
 - The County is planning to install some signs, even though they may be temporary ones.
 - Pratt's Peak remains on hold.
4. **Red Cliff** (TBD – Meierotto has moved to BIA): no representative currently designated
 - **ACTION:** Kitchell needs to contact Chairman Rick Peterson to seek a representative.
5. **Ashwabay (AOEF)** (Finn): not present: working on trails before snow piles up.
6. **Town of Bayfield** (Fahrenkrog):
 - See ongoing business below for Town Trails projects
 - Thanks to Erickson family for easement on East Rim Trail. Need to work toward securing agreements/easements on East Rim from Finns & Fiereks, as well as Froeliger for Gracie's Trail.
 - Bayfield Chamber & Visitor Bureau (BCVB) update:
 - Participating in National Byway Commission: they are interested in stats. on visitor numbers and demographics.
 - Working on efforts for winter marketing of Bayfield, with a plan to obtain JEM grant in 2023-2024. This will include snowmobiling.
 - Committed to printing the Bayfield trails brochure that Landmark has developed over the years.
 - Carol & Kate will coordinate with Landmark after Thanksgiving to review the content of the trails brochure and update maps and narrative. We may ask BAT Comm. members to participate in this review.
7. **NPS** (Van Stappen): Several trails updates.
 - Lakeshore Trail that is accessed via the Meyers Beach parking lot received some benches this year; interpretive signage is planned for next year. Van Stappen welcomed Rothe's suggestion to add directions/signs for a loop at Mawikwe to the beach and back to the trailhead.
 - 3 trails being analyzed at Little Sand Bay, with the goal of obtaining funding and implementing in the next year or two:
 - From parking lot near the Town of Russell picnic shelter to the south side of the lagoon. Beautiful hemlocks, cedars, and wetlands. It will include boardwalks.
 - From Allen Rd. toward the boundary with the Red Cliff reservation land. Ultimately hope to create a trail to Pt. Detour in cooperation with the Tribe.

- From campground to Nelson cabin; ultimately may connect to Wilderness Inquiry to reduce people walking on Little Sand Bay road.
8. **City of Bayfield (Kitchell):**
- Gil Larsen boardwalk replacement complete.

Ongoing Business:

1. Big Ravine Headwaters:
 - a. Purchase complete
 - b. Goal is to create rustic routes before snow piles up
 - c. Working on map, “entrance” sign/kiosk, and directional signs.
 - d. Landmark has done a press release; preparing a video to celebrate the importance of the land purchase and partnership.
 - e. Kitchell is submitting grant reports.
 - f. Trails and signage to be implemented next year.
2. Pikes Creek Tributary Trail:
 - a. Project completed early (10/29) and under budget (by >\$2,000)
 - b. Over 30 volunteers; > 300 hrs.
 - c. **ACTION:** Send in trail name ideas: bring the list to BAT Comm. at December meeting for decision.
 - d. Received \$3,000 from Jared Johnson memorial cribbage tournament for Bayfield Area Trails: recommendation is to use this funding for the bridge.
 - e. Kitchell submitted grant app. to WCMP for 50% of bridge costs (\$28,000).
 - f. Will launch fundraising for bridge soon
3. Mapping & Socioeconomics Projects (\$12K WCMP funds & Town of Bayfield \$6K) (10 min.):
 - a. Socioeconomics:
 - i. Kitchell made initial contact with UW Extension folks as well as JEM grant
 - ii. We may not need additional funding beyond JEM grant, which requires 20% match. The CAMBA survey used volunteers to count as “in kind” match.
 - iii. **ACTIONS:** Rothe will follow up on JEM grant; Kitchell will follow up with UW Extension to schedule a zoom meeting.
 - b. Mapping: don’t expect to need much funding; perhaps some for EMS signage.
 - 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. The current concept is to have the County host the georeferenced trail data for the trails; this data can be accessed and used via the Avenza app. QR codes for each of the trails (& trails networks) can be posted at trailheads so people can download the maps and they can track themselves along the trail. **QUESTION:** is it possible to access the data at the County with apps. other than Avenza, such as All Trails?
 - iii. 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. **ACTION:** We have asked him to do a demo at the TsC meeting on 11/15.
 - iv. There is still a need to figure out how to display different types of uses on trails, most notably at AWB.

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

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
- c. Starting to explore alternatives

- d. Concept discussed at City 11/3/22 P&R Committee meeting. Key discussion points at the P&R Committee:
- City property line along the north edge of the cemetery may end at the woods line. There may not be enough space in the woods for a trail.
 - Respecting private land and privacy are essential.
 - Concerns about parking, trash, maintenance, trespassing.
 - It would be preferable to look at the entire proposed link from Brownstone to Martin Rd.

Trails Subcommittee (TsC) (5 min.): Wegerson/Ipsen

- Adopt a Trail reports completed for all trails. The coordination and communication about trail issues has been working and has facilitated timely resolution of issues, most notably trees across or threatening trails. Special thanks to Wegerson & Ipsen as the primary chain sawyers who have responded to these tree issues.
- Automated Google form was tested by some TsC members during the fall monitoring period.
- Johnson will present the automated form at the next TsC meeting to discuss outputs and process and determine next steps.

Communications Subcommittee (CsC) (5 min.):

- Liz Fentress and Mark Peterson have produced several blog and Facebook posts on projects & trail alerts.
- 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.
- Fundraising for the Pikes Creek Tributary Trail bridge to be launched soon.

Future Meeting Topics:

The group agreed that is a good idea to put on the Jan. agenda and open discussion:

Reflections on Bayfield Area Trails Committee

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

Adjourn: 4:31

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday December 13th @ 3 p.m.

