



**BAYFIELD  
AREA TRAILS**

**Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Agenda and Background Notes  
Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 3 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)**

Participants:

- Committee members present: Carrier (for Clark), Kitchell, Lang, Rothe
- Committee members absent: Finn, Huinker, Mattson, Van Stappen
- Trails Subcommittee present: Ipsen, Johnson, Wegerson
- Communications Subcommittee present: none
- Others present:

Agenda

1. Rapid Round Robin Reports

a. **APIS/NPS:** (Van Stappen): none

b. **Ashwabay** (Finn):

- i. AWB provided substantial assistance on the Pileated Woodpecker Trail connection from AWB parking lot trailhead. Thank you!
- ii. Trail maps & signs being updated, trying to include PWT & recommended hiking and snowshoeing routes that would be routinely mowed in the summer.
- iii. Johnson highlighted a need to coordinate with the County on silent sports mapping.

1. **ACTION:** Kitchell will contact Carmen Novak at the County to request zoom meeting. Subsequently, this is scheduled for 11/27 @ 10 a.m.

c. **City** (Carrier):

- i. USNG signs installed at intersections throughout the Big Ravine system. Ipsen noted that the one at the Hilltop kiosk is considerably off.
  1. **ACTION:** Kitchell will follow up with County & Carrier to rectify the problem.
- ii. Successful field recon. Trip to flag a new trail route from Hilltop trailhead (by soccer field), southward in woods east of the cemetery, eastward along the Sweeny Ave. right-of-way corridor, ending at the water tank at the upper end of N. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> St.

1. **ACTION:** This proposed route will be discussed at the City's P&R Committee meeting on 12/6/23.

- iii. Lang reported substantial buckthorn patch near the baseball field that is currently very visible.

1. **ACTION:** Carrier will bring this to the City P&R Committee.

d. **Landmark** (Lang):

- i. Thanks to BATs volunteers, to replace asphalt ramp, box steps at S. 7<sup>th</sup> St. were built to access the Brownstone Trail. There is a bike path next to it; this will be monitored for effectiveness & resource impacts.
- ii. DOT Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) grant submitted for the Brownstone Trail restoration.
- iii. Proposed easement to extend the Brownstone from Cheq. Rd. to the Salmo Trail:

1. No response to Lang's outreach to Port Superior Village Assn.

2. Wegerson has updated a draft easement for Waterford's consideration.
  3. Kitchell has asked Town of Bayfield Board Chair & Board to consider holding the easements; since the Town already holds easements for the Brownstone. Expecting this to be addressed at the Dec. Town Board meeting.
  4. There is a need to recontact Pikes Bay Marina, since the proposed route has been modified.
- e. **County (Mattson):**
- i. Siskiwit: with assistance from volunteers (CTC), completed bridge across drainage in the Orchard! This will facilitate grooming for XC ski trail in both Orchard & Meadow.
- f. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club: (Rothe):**
- i. There may be cooperative work yet to be done on Lost Creek Falls. This could include USNG sign installation & fencing.
- g. **Town of Bayfield: (Kitchell)**
- i. Interpretive sign about the great train wreck installed at Salmo Trailhead thanks to Bob Mackreth, Neil Howk, with assistance from John Ipsen.
  - ii. Neil Howk is starting to design a sign for the Salmo Trailhead kiosk, plus one or more at the Hatchery parking lot trailhead.
- h. **Red Cliff (Huinker):**
- i. Trails feasibility study: there were no responses to the first RFP. Huinker recently sent the RFP to 280 people as a 2<sup>nd</sup> effort. Hopefully this will result in some viable applications.
2. FOCUS TOPIC & DECISIONS: Trail Naming: Kate et al
- a. Trail naming guidelines/policy (see October meeting notes). There was no additional discussion. Member present accepted the notes as general guidelines.
    - i. **ACTION:** Kitchell will prepare these as a guidelines document for adoption at the December meeting. These will then be incorporated into the BATs DRAFT Operations Manual.
  - b. Report from Ashley Huinker regarding applying Ojibwemowin names and/or translations:
    - i. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) is currently not supportive of using the Meme Miikana translation on PWT signs or public information.
    - ii. There may be future opportunities to collaborate on trail names & using Ojibwemowin translations for trail names. BAT Comm. can consider ongoing communication for this purpose – through Huinker as the BAT Comm. rep.
  - c. Approve trail name(s) for Pileated Woodpecker Trail (PWT):
    - i. Members present agreed to apply this name for the full trail from the bridge at Pikes Creek to the intersection with the Sugarbush Trail at AWB. The following day, Finn & Mattson expressed support for this name via email. Finn asked that this trail be named & recognized as connecting all of the way to the AWB parking lot trailhead (beyond the Sugarbush trail).

- ii. **DECISION/ACTION:** Apply the Pileated Woodpecker Trail name to the entire trail from the bridge to the AWB parking lot trailhead.
  - iii. **DECISION/ACTION:** Name the 0.1 mi. spur from PWT to Jolly Long the “Jolly Long Link.”
  - iv. **DECISION/ACTION:** Name the 0.1 mi. spur from the PWT to the lookout “Chickadee Point.”
- 3. Review Vision & Mission statement: Ad hoc Subcommittee Report: Peter et al reviewed the Vision/Mission document. Discussion ensued.
  - a. **ACTION:** Add a map to the Vision/Mission document.
  - b. **DECISION/ACTION:** The Committee agreed to adopt the Bayfield Peninsula as the BAT Committee’s new geographic scope.
  - c. **DECISION/ACTION:** The Committee agreed to expand the scope of the subcommittee’s assignment to encompass a comprehensive revision to the BAT Mission & Vision Statements.
  - d. **DECISION/ACTION:** The Committee supports expanding the subcommittee’s members to include anyone else who may be interested. Subsequently, Sue Aiken from the Trails Subcommittee volunteered to participate.
  - e. **DECISION/ACTION:** The DRAFT revised Mission & Vision statements will be vetted with the Trails and Communications Subcommittees;
  - f. **DECISION/ACTION:** A public “roll out” of the revised statements will occur at the 2024 Trails Forum.
- 4. Trails Subcommittee Report & Input from BAT Comm. (TsC)
  - a. Final October AAT reports – Genevieve
    - i. The documents and process have been improved & streamlined.
    - ii. Would like to have more photos submitted, plus a good process for filing them for future access.
    - iii. 46 trail segments have been identified, mapped, and assigned to adopters.
    - iv. Need to work on process to follow-up on minor issues.
    - v. Will work with the TsC on training, including guidance on maintenance standards.
  - b. Other reports – Kris & John –
    - i. Wrapped up trail projects for the season with lots of great participation by volunteers.
    - ii. For the purpose of resource protection and safety, we need to start to think about trail management standards, infrastructure, and closure procedures. Superior Hiking Trail and the City of Duluth have some great resources and procedures to work from.
    - iii. **DECISION/ACTION:** Conduct research & follow up discussion on trail management, infrastructure, and closure standards. These would become a part of the BATs Operations Manual. Subsequently, the Trails Subcommittee established an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to address this, including trail blazing.

5. Projects Report/Status:
  - a. Meme Miikana:
    - i. The trail is now open for public use.
    - ii. Bridge does not meet all of the contract specs:
      1. The Town Board decided to make partial payment to Anderson Bridges to pay for engineering, fabrication, delivery & installation. Funding will be withheld for items not delivered (abutments, footings) and late delivery.
      2. Access will be rehabbed after the bridge issues are resolved.
    - iii. Will Krift did a little finishing work, but due to wet conditions, most of the work has been postponed to next spring.
    - iv. Signs will be installed soon. **ACTION:** Now that trail name decisions are made, Kitchell will order the signs. A final draft of signs will be circulated for review
  - b. Connection between Meme & AWB trails/trailhead:
    - i. Corridor cleared by Doug Olson
    - ii. Equipment rental was funded thanks to a donation from Lissa Flemming @ Silverwaves.
    - iii. Slash cleared & temporary signs installed by volunteers led by Kris Wegerson, John Ipsen, & Kate Kitchell
    - iv. Bridge across drainage near north end built by volunteers led by Mike Kinnee
    - v. Other finish work will occur next year: drainage, boardwalk, & building final tread.
  - c. Brownstone Trail Projects: Landmark
    - i. Gravel & ditches on segment near Wild Rice, plus gravel near steps south of Blue Wing Bay Rd.: Completed by volunteers led by Ipsen & Wegerson
    - ii. Constructing box steps near Seagull Bay Motel: completed by volunteers led by Charly Kearns from Landmark Conservancy
6. Communications Subcommittee Report & Input from BAT Comm (CsC):
  - a. Year-end summary to be prepared for December BAT Comm. and general outreach
  - b. Kitchell continues to work with Tony Jeannette on blog & Facebook posts.
7. Project dedications/celebrations: Deferred to next spring in conjunction with an annual Trails Forum.
  - a. **ACTION:** Assign to Trails Subcommittee as lead.
  - b. Proposed date: First weekend in June in conjunction with World Trails Day
  - c. Proposed location: Hatchery grounds on Sat. 6/1/24; Headwaters – guided walk on Sun. 6/2/24.
8. Economic Impact Study Update: still on hold
9. Future Meetings: @ 3 – 4:30 p.m.
  - a. December 12<sup>th</sup> : end of year report & 2024 Priorities.
10. Future Agenda Topics:
  - Trail mapping
  - Trail management standards, infrastructure, & closure procedures.
  - Long-term planning: Trails Forum Feedback follow up
  - What should we do with trail counter statistics?