



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

Participants:

- Committee members present: Clark, Huinker, Kitchell, Lang, Mattson (joined late), Rothe
- Committee members absent: Finn, Van Stappen (retired; new rep. to be designated)
- Trails Subcommittee present: Ipsen, May, Wegerson
- Communications Subcommittee present: n/a
- Others present:

Agenda

1. Trail Naming Guidelines: Kate
 - a. The guidelines were approved with the revisions listed below.
 - i. To facilitate consistency, the land manager/easement holder would vet new trail name proposals with the BAT Comm.
 - ii. Should a land manager/easement holder prefer not to name a trail, they could ask the BAT Comm. to lead the process.
 - iii. in cases where duplication may occur, it is recommended that a local identifier be assigned (e.g. Jerry Jolly or Big Ravine Overlook)
 - b. ACTION: They have been inserted into the draft Operations Manual ([link to manual here](#)).

2. Ad hoc Subcommittee Report: Review Vision & Mission statements
 - a. Peter gave an update on the subcommittee's process and draft Mission language and Vision concepts (per notes attached to agenda). Discussion points:
 - i. Consider dropping "the" before "Bayfield Peninsula" or "the" before "diverse habitats."
 - ii. Is "habitats" the best term? It has an ecological connotation, when diversity could encompass a broader scope (e.g. history, culture, terrain, city vs. rural)

3. Trails Subcommittee Report & Input from BAT Comm. (TSC) –Wegerson & Ipsen
 - a. All projects completed, except signage on Pileated Woodpecker Trail.
 - b. Report from Ad hoc committee on Trails Dedications & Forum – proposed for June 1 & 2, 2024 (notes attached to the agenda). Ted May gave an overview of the outline developed so far. Discussion points:
 - i. Landmark could assist with outreach and remarks on the Big Ravine
 - ii. Great to include Darren Miller at the hatchery; very knowledgeable about fish hatchery as well as history; also, he is very collaborative.
 - iii. Activities on 2 different days may be too much to ask of participants.
 - iv. Perhaps ask the Blessing of the Fleet to announce the BRH dedication.
 - c. Report from Ad hoc committee on Management & Maintenance Standards: John Ipsen provided a concise report.
 - i. 3 members with substantial/diverse trails experience;
 - ii. Researching/reviewing existing examples from other trails systems such as the NCT, SHT, Ice Age Trail.

- iii. They will come forward with recommendations on topics such as marking trails, closures/hazards, maintenance standards, and timely communication to managers and trail users.
 - d. Trails Mapping: Kitchell reported that a meeting was held with the County GIS/Land Records staff to continue work toward making accurate online and downloadable maps readily accessible to all trail users. This would include the potential to use a range of apps. These would be accessible/linked via the BATs website. This coordination is a work in progress.
- 4. Communications & Website: Kitchell
 - a. Neil Howk is taking the lead on interpretive and orientation signs for Salmo & PWT Trailheads: coordinating with Ted May & Darren Miller @ the hatchery.
 - b. Adding PWT & Big Ravine Headwaters Trails to the website trails page & maps
 - c. Annual Report: Kitchell
 - i. Wait until after Jan. 1 to distribute, due to inundation of donation requests before year's end.
 - ii. Add narrative in the first section to explain the BAT Comm. structure
 - iii. ACTION: Circulate to BAT Comm. review & comment by 1st week of January
 - iv. Discussion points: ACTION: Kitchell will incorporate these into revised report.
 - 1. 2023: Don't forget to include upgraded signs on the Brownstone Trail
 - 2. Concerns that the funding pie chart may be misleading/confusing.
 - 3. In Funding Section: Suggest adding more narrative about the land and trails ownership by each partner.
 - a. Explain the scope of the funding being displayed in the table
 - 4. 2024 Priorities:
 - a. Landmark will provide suggested language for the Brownstone Trail.
 - b. County asked to drop the link between the Jerry Jolly Overlook and the Jolly Long Loop; change Fire Hill language to "assist Bayfield County on planning & implementation"
 - 5. Last section: add an opportunity to "Donate Here," accompanied by explanation about how the fiscal sponsorship works and that donations will be used for priority projects selected by the BAT Committee.
 - 6. Fred Clark asked if there is a way to reach trail users at trailheads for fundraising and volunteering.
 - 7. ACTION: This will be placed on a future agenda as a focus topic.
 - d. Pileated Woodpecker Trail blog planned for when snowshoe season begins
- 5. Economic Impact Study Update: Kitchell
 - a. Received notice last week that funding approval is underway. Stay tuned.
- 6. 2024 Priorities – ACTION: distribute with the meeting notes with a request for review and comment by 12/22/23; adopt final version at January meeting.
- 7. Rapid Round Robin Reports
 - a. **APIS/NPS**: (Van Stappen):
 - b. **Ashwabay** (Finn):

- c. **City (Clark):**
 - i. Fred described the new Sweeny Loop Trail proposal (briefing info. was attached to the agenda). It has been approved by City Parks & Rec. Committee; now being recommended to City Council. If approved, a name will be proposed by the P&R Committee.
 - ii. City will purchase weed wrench for buckthorn control.
 - d. **Landmark (Lang):**
 - e. **County (Mattson):**
 - i. Fire Hill: encroaching vegetation will be cleared/brushed starting this week to keep access clear for winter use.
 - ii. USNG signs at Siskiwit and Lost Creek Falls deferred to next year.
 - iii. Starting to make plans with Steve Vizanko/Bayfield Nordic for grooming at Siskiwit
 - iv. Asking AWB to groom the Jerry Jolly Trail to Star Route
 - f. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club: (Rothe):**
 - i. A local resident hiked & mapped 250 miles on and around Pratt's Peak and documented very interesting resources, including trail routes and multi-tiered beaver ponds. Only one person encountered. Would like to revisit potential trails with the County.
 - ii. Lindley expressed that trails on Pratt's Peak are not a County priority.
 - g. **Town of Bayfield: (Kitchell)**
 - i. All projects complete, except Pileated Woodpecker
 - 1. Directional signage, to be installed when delivered
 - 2. Working on map to be installed at key intersections. Kitchell will work with County GIS/Land Records on a map and share it for review with BAT Comm. members to consider developing common look & feel.
 - h. **Red Cliff (Huinker): Trails Feasibility Study:** 4 contractors have been in contact with Ashley. Proposals are due 12/15. The goal is to review proposals then select a contractor and obligate funds by the end of February.
 - i. Ashley's supervisor resigned; Ashley is acting in charge of fisheries & wildlife group.
8. Future Meetings: @ 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- a. **NEXT MEETING: January 16th**, due to 5 Tuesdays in January:
 - i. Discuss and adopt new Mission/Vision
 - ii. Finalize 2024 Priorities;
 - iii. Review Final 2023 Annual Report;
 - b. February 13th, 2024
9. Future Agenda Topics:
- Reaching trail users at trailheads for fundraising & volunteering
 - Trail mapping
 - Trail management standards: blazing, closures, etc.
 - Long-term planning: Trails Forum Feedback follow up