



Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes Tuesday December 13 @ 3 – 4:30 pm (via Zoom)

Welcome new members:

- Melis Arik, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
 - Been in this position as planner and grants writer since April 1, 2022
 - Lives in Washburn, since Oct. 2019
 - Previously worked for Bad River in water resources
 - Bird watcher, fisher person, trail user
- Lindley Mattson, replacing Jen Bratsch from Bayfield County Forestry and Parks
 - Rec. specialist since April
 - Was previously the office manager
 - Active outdoorsperson: fish, hunt, hike, boat...

Participants:

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

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

1. **Landmark** (Lang):
 - Brownstone Trail new re-route completed with support from BATs volunteers
 - On track to purchase the Maki property by end of 2023! WOW!! CONGRATULATIONS!
2. **County** (Mattson, replacing Jen Bratsch):
 - See trail counter stats attached at end;
 - Trafx updated pricing: Click [HERE](#) for a link to their pricing document.
 - Lost Creek Falls: fragile area signs installed; will monitor effectiveness; may need to add more fencing to reduce social trailing/travel off the trail.
 - Siskiwit River Preserve: new ski loop added beyond the Meadow Loop; it will be groomed this season under agreement with Steve Vizanko & Bayfield Nordic; planning to add temporary signs
3. **Town of Bell/Cornucopia Trails Club:** (Rothe):
 - Excited about working with the County on Siskiwit trails.
4. **Red Cliff** (Melis, replacing Meierotto): listening and looking forward to participating.
5. **Ashwabay (AOEF)** (Finn): not present
 - Kitchell mentioned that Ashley Georgeson has been in contact as she is coordinating implementation of the National Grid emergency response signage on the trails. She is also revising the trail maps. Kitchell has suggested the concept of showing different trail types on one trail map.
6. **Town of Bayfield** (Fahrenkrog) (see attached report)
7. **NPS** (Van Stappen): not much new.
 - An environmental consultant is doing the environmental assessment for the new trails at Little Sand Bay.
 - Working with Friends of the Apostle Islands on making Meyers Beach fully accessible.
8. **City:** (Kitchell):
 - Fahrenkrog commented from the Chamber's point of view that there remains confusion by visitors about the Big Ravine trails. It may primarily be over how to access the Gil Larsen trailhead. Discussion ensued about how trail maps and signage might be improved, despite

every intersection having a map with directional signs. It was noted that some people do not know how to read maps. Kitchell & Fahrenkrog will coordinate further.

- Projects completed for the year. Will install trail counter at the start of Gil Larsen Trail in early Jan.
- The Parks & Rec. Committee is conducting its annual Outdoor Recreation Plan review that will report on 2022 accomplishments and identify 2023 priorities/plans. 2023 may include initiating a trails plan for the City that would include public input as well as seeking to establish secure agreements for the Chipmunk Trail in the Big Ravine network.

Ongoing Business:

1. Pikes Creek Tributary Trail (10 min.): Kitchell et al
 - Fundraising underway: Target goal \$55K. Currently we are about \$30,000 short.
 - Goal: secure funds and initiate Request for Bids in January
 - Selecting a trail name: the group reviewed and discussed the names that have been suggested so far.
 - i. **ACTION:** Melis will contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to learn if there is an Ojibwemowin name for Pikes Creek.
 - ii. **DECISION:** There was consensus that we should select the Ojibwemowin name if there is one. If not, Kitchell will circulate a voting poll for the preferred name.
2. Mapping Project: demo. by Jamie Paterson has not occurred; don't really expect to need funding
 - Landmark is updating the trails brochure: **ACTION:** Chamber & Kitchell will review to provide updated narrative for trails and possible additional trail maps.
 - Chamber travel guide is being revised in prep. to go to print on Feb. 1st. **ACTION:** County, Kitchell and others should review and provide feedback asap, by early Jan.
3. Socioeconomics Projects (\$12K WCMP funds & Town of Bayfield \$6K) (10 min.):
 - Rothe report on JEM grant: [JEM Grant Guidelines](#)
 - i. Applications due by April 1st. 3 municipalities must be involved. Max. amount \$39,550 that has to be matched 50/50. Match can include in-kind (e.g. volunteer participation in conducting interviews to gather data).
 - ii. Wait to decide on submitting grant until after we see the proposal (see below).
 - Kitchell report on Socioeconomic Survey/Study
 - i. Had a good discussion with Shaheer Burney from U.W. River Falls Survey Research Center where the CAMBA user survey was conducted from. He will provide a proposal for BATs Committee consideration at the January meeting.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Review this study; our proposed study would be patterned after the CAMBA **2020 Economic Impact and User Experience Survey Summary:** <https://cambatrails.org/about/economic-impact-studies/>. Note: we may consider using a QR code at trailheads to allow online participation in survey.
 - Need to submit proposal to WCMP
4. Westside Trail concept ad hoc subcommittee proposal (5 min.)
 - 1 landowner supportive & 1 opposed to initial proposal
 - Concept discussed at City 11/3/22 and 12/1/22 P&R Committee meetings
 - Starting to explore alternatives
 - Will also need to coordinate via Town Plan Commission if/when viable alternative(s) identified
5. Wegerson reported on ongoing discussions with Waterford, Pikes Bay Marina, and the Port Superior Village Association about establishing a public access route to connect the Brownstone Trail at the end of Chequamegon Rd. to the Salmo Trail.

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

- Due to time constraints there was no report.

Communications Subcommittee (CsC) (5 min.): nothing new

New Business: Tabled for future discussion due to lack of time.

1. Working on trail easements for key trails:
 - East Rim: Finn
 - East Rim: Fierek
 - Gracie's Trail: Froeliger
 - Chipmunk Trail in Big Ravine

January/February Meeting Topics:

1. Open discussion: reflections on Bayfield Area Trails
 - What is going well and why?
 - What can be improved & how?
2. Initiate discussion about 2023 priorities and plans
3. Socioeconomic study proposal review
4. Easements
5. Update on fiscal sponsorship agreement with RFR



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday January 10th @ 3 p.m.

NAMING THE NEW PIKES CREEK TRAIL

Kitchell contacted the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer in Red Cliff to inquire if Pikes Creek and/or the drainage has an Ojibwemowin name. No response yet. Rick Erickson at the Bayfield School has also reached out to the THPO and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) for input/suggestions. If they respond with a name and a supportive voice toward using it for the trail, I suggest that we select that name. In the meantime, here are the name options and the top 3 choices from the Trails and Communications Subcommittee voting:

Top 3 for the Main Trail

1. Ziibiins Miikana (Creek Trail)
 2. Hatchwabay Trail
 3. Jolly Pike Trail
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Other options for the Main Trail

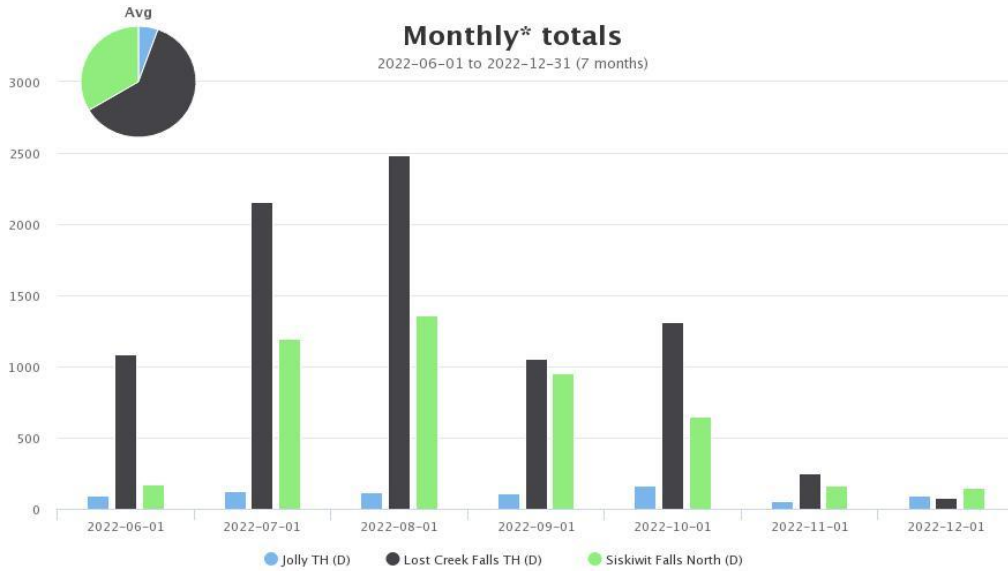
1. Pikes Creek Pass Trail
 2. Pikes Passage Trail
 3. R.D. Pike Trail
 4. Hatchwabay Connection
 5. Pikes Passage
 6. Giant Poplar Trail
 7. Steelhead Trace
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Choices for the Overlook Spur – in priority order

1. Chickadee Point
 2. Pileated Point
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Other options for the Overlook Spur:

1. Meme Miikana (Pileated woodpecker trail)



	Busiest Week of the Month	Total
Jolly	6/27-7/3	27
	7/18-7/24	32
	8/29-9/4	50
	9/26-10/2	28
	10/17-10/23	51
	11/21-11/27	18

	Busiest Week of the Month	Total
Lost Creek	5/30-6/5	322
	7/25-7/31	735
	8/8-8/14	789
	9/26-10/2	405
	10/3-10/9	248
	11/7-11/13	75

	Busiest Week of the Month	Total
Siskiwit	5/30-6/5	206
	7/25-7/31	372
	8/8-8/14	378
	9/26-10/2	225
	10/3-10/9	188
	11/21-11/27	41