

Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday May 11th @ 3 – 4:45 pm

In attendance: Fahrenkrog, Jeannette, Kitchell, Lang, Eades.

Subcommittees reps. In attendance: Johnson, Wegerson

Absent: Finn, VanBergen, Van Stappen

Round Robin Reports from Committee members: (15 min.)

- Ashwabay (Finn)
 - Ashwabay to Valhalla moving along
 - Concern about proposed timber harvest among the nordic and mountain bike trails
- City (Kitchell)
 - Gil Larsen Trailhead: new interpretive signs are installed; new timbers around parking area; 5 trees from Tree Board planted; native plants planted in Iron Bridge viewshed corridor.
 - Signs: still awaiting Big Ravine maps & directional arrows from Heart Graphics.
 - Hemlock Heights Trail Construction with Will Krift of Trails Anonymous started on May 10th, to be completed by May 28th. Great volunteer turn-out.
 - Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant has been approved to restore Waterfront Walking path along the harbor through Memorial Park etc. We hope to complete by the fall.
 - School Board & Bayfield Community Education Foundation have committed a total of \$13,000 toward the school trail connection between the school parking lot and the Gil Larsen Trail. This trail is being designed by Trails Anonymous and is proposed for construction in late August.
- County (Bodine) (sign MOU?): no report
- Landmark (Lang):
 - Brownstone kiosk materials updated; new sign at the end near Waterford
 - New signage installed on the re-route around the slump on Hwy 13; being used
 - Appraisal for Maki property is in the hands of the Maki brothers.
 - Landmark is starting to plan a capital campaign for the possible purchase of Maki property
 - Developing plan for field work on Brownstone
 - A grant has been received from Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation to Northland College (Tom Fitz) for a baseline assessment of the Brownstone Trail resource
- NPS (Van Stappen)
 - Bayfield Area Trails volunteers are scheduled to assist on the Mainland Trail July 27 - 30
- Red Cliff (VanBergen): no report
 - David Eades recently spoke with Rick Peterson (recent Tribal Chair) who expressed strong support for consistent trail signage & the BATs unified trail network.
- Town (Fahrenkrog) (sign MOU?)
 - Plan Commission has established some subcommittees to work on implementing the new Comp. Plan. Carol is leading a subcommittee on trails and short-term rentals.
 - Pike's Bay Sanitary District is starting the Apple Hill project June 1
 - Carol is on the Byways Committee and will keep in mind opportunities to collaborate with BATs.

Communications Reports (Jeannette & Kitchell) (30 min.)

- Tony's update
 - Reviewed website report: new users continue to visit site
 - Facebook: now have 242 followers and counting...
- Comm. Plan: Kate (with help from Fentress & G. Johnson) Discussion of Core Messages: RESPECT (concept document attached).
 - Purpose is to have unified and consistent message for the entire BATs network

- Too many words: graphics could simplify and reduce the verbiage
- No ideas on who might be able to provide graphics assistance
- David discussed the Door County video which he thinks is fantastic. It has a strong message of enjoy and respect/appreciate. He is interested in doing a video like this for Bayfield.
- Be careful about having too much material at trailheads as people may not read it all.
- Consider a printed hand-out/brochure/trail guide
- Remember Byway kiosks as places to post BATs information: Frog Bay, Salmo, Jerry Jolly
- Consider posting all or part of the RESPECT messages along trails, perhaps at intersections
- The group looked at the “Recreate Responsibly” info. on Landmark website. This is an existing campaign that Landmark added to their site. Liz, Genevieve & Kate saw this when pulling together the information they reviewed when developing the RESPECT concepts.
- **ACTION:** All members were asked to review and comment on the RESPECT product. Provide feedback on:
 - Content, language, messages
 - How to present it
 - Where to post it – along trail, trailheads, FB posts, website...

Mobilizing Volunteers (Kitchell) (with help from Ipsen & Wegerson) (5 min.)

- Virtual Training: May 15, 2021 @ 9 – 10:30 a.m. – 15 participants
 - Overview of BATs; safety and volunteer policies & signing the release form (Kitchell)
 - Fundamentals of Trail Building & Maintenance: Will Krift
 - 2021 Volunteer Projects Calendar (attached)
- Release form coordination: Wegerson & Ipsen

Project Calendar Status & Outlook (review calendar) (20 min.)

Private Land Trail Crossings (20 min.)

- Strategy was adopted
 - BAT Comm. members will share with our organizations if/when it seems appropriate.
 - Post on the website – **ACTION:** Kate will work with Tony to figure out where and how to post it. Something like: How do trails come to be? Working with private landowners to develop trails.
- Initiate private land crossings outreach with receptive landowners: E. Rim, Bayfield Hill, Orchards
 - Finn easement with Town has been signed and recorded
 - The trail to connect from Betzold to Fire Tower hill across Drew Froeliger’s property has been initially cleared. More clearing will occur in the next month. Then, signs will be posted at each end and a few hiker logos along the way.
 - Start to think about posting maps that show these new connections. They would be on waterproof paper/temporary since other connections will be further developed.
- Example draft documents on hold until needed.

Proposal to acquire Big Ravine Headwater Wetlands (Kitchell, Fahrenkrog, Lang) (10 min.)

- Town Board voted to support
- Positive discussion with landowner
- Secured funding for appraisal – start appraisal in early June
- Short landowner agreement letter
- Goals: submit DNR grant app. 8/1; grant app. to Joint Venture & EPA NAQWA in July

Adjourn: NEXT MEETING: June 8th @ 3 p.m.

Future Agendas:

- Fiscal sponsorship: Finn & Kitchell will explore this with RFR
- Re-engaging other partners in meetings etc.: How to re-engage CAMBA and NCCA and other partner groups in our meetings and activities. 1) Invite partners on the MOU to regular meetings? 2) Open meetings to email list?