

Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday June 8th @ 3 – 4:45 pm

Present: Finn (3 – 3:30), Kitchell, Jeannette, Fentress, Wegerson, Lang was unable to join via phone

Absent: Bratsch, Fahrenkrog, Van Stappen, VanBergen

Round Robin Reports from Committee members:

- Ashwabay (Finn)
 - Congratulations, the signed MOU has been submitted!
 - Work continues on the AWB to Valhalla trail. Don't know if landowner permissions have been obtained.
 - County is planning timber cutting among some of the AWB trails. There is concern about the potential impact to the nordic skiing, biking, and hiking experiences. More information is being gathered; there may be a need to encourage public input.
 - Received a small grant from North Star Ski Touring Club for improvements to the Black Bear Trail and to add some trail near the trailhead to disperse skiers more quickly to reduce "crowding."
 - New person (Ashley) will be coming on board to help with the nordic skiing program
 - If anyone is interested, they need help with food and beverage service during Big Top events.
- City (Kitchell)
 - Big Ravine: new Hemlock Heights trail has been completed. Very exciting trail that connects bottom with the west side trails.
 - Big Ravine trail signs are going in. Should be done by mid-June
 - 4 Aldo Leopold benches have been built by the school wood working class. They will be installed at 1) Top of Sweeny Switchback; 2) Top of Hemlock Heights; 3) Top of Pine Bluff; 4) along East Rim.
 - Waterfront Walk in Bayfield: grant has been approved. Going out with request for bids soon.
 - Hatchery connection reconnaissance has been completed by a crew of adventurous folks. They have found a good route; it will require one large bridge to cross Pike's Creek. Next steps are to refine the route, then initiate coordination with DNR on environmental reviews, permitting, etc. Then, ultimately, we'll have to pursue grant funds for construction. Ideally, we would get started on trail building in 2022.
- County (Bodine or Bratsch) (sign MOU?)
- Landmark (Lang)
 - Fund-raising campaign for acquisition of Maki property is expected to start soon
 - Will have a station at the start of the Brownstone Trail during the Bayfield in Bloom garden tour
 - Planning viewing areas along the Brownstone Trail during the Pt. to La Pointe Cliff Swim in August.
 - Planning to initiate the appraisal for the Big Ravine Headwaters Wetlands acquisition in June.
- NPS (Van Stappen)
 - Planning to have BAT volunteers help on Mainland Trail July 27 - 30
- Red Cliff (VanBergen)
- Town (Fahrenkrog) (sign MOU?)
 - Received a \$3100 grant for renovating the steps and trail on the Brownstone trail south of Blue Wing Bay Rd. Matching funds will come from Landmark and other donors. Work is planned for early September. Much of the work will be done with BATs volunteers. Will Krift will lead the reconstruction of the steps.

Communications Reports (Jeannette & Kitchell)

- Tony's update:

- Website: lots of activity showing that new and returning users check more than one page.
- Facebook: 293 followers (72 new). Use shows that they are most interested in those posts that are locally focused.
- It is time to develop posts for the next 3 months, so Tony is looking for ideas and material:
 - New trail: Hemlock Heights
 - Bench installation
 - Hatchery connection
 - **Action:** Kate will send an email to ask BAT Comm. members for ideas for FB posts.
- Big Ravine Flood video (funded by BHA): Congrats to Tony on this production. Public viewing tentatively planned as virtual production soon.
- Comm. Plan & Core Messages: RESPECT:
 - Be careful not to get too “preachy.”
 - Make it fun and interesting
 - Use graphics and photos
 - Yes...it is worth continuing to work on this....

Mobilizing Volunteers (Kitchell) (with help from Ipsen & Wegerson)

- Virtual Training: May 15, 2021 @ 9 – 10:30 a.m. – 15+ participants

Project Calendar Status & Outlook (review calendar)

Private Land Trail Crossings (10 min.)

- Strategy finalized. Has been shared with North Coast Cycling Association – they found it very useful.
- Posting on the website – Tony prepared a draft page of condensed and simplified information.
 - **Action:** Kate will review and provide feedback
- Private land crossings outreach with receptive landowners: E. Rim, Bayfield Hill, Orchards
 - Drew Froeliger crossing status report (Kitchell): connection from Betzold to Fire Tower hill
 - Mr. and Mrs. Larson have decided to donate 4 lots to the City for the trail and additional open space on the east side of the Big Ravine. The City P&R Committee is working with the City’s attorney on preparing deed and other documents for the land transfer.
 - Still waiting to hear about Daum crossings on East Rim Trail (Kitchell)
 - Clark property: this is a large strip of land on the west side of the Big Ravine & school, immediately south of the soccer field. Some of this property is expected to go on the market fairly soon. One leg of the Big Ravine Trails, the Chipmunk Trail, traverses 2-3 lots of this property. The City Parks & Rec. Committee will explore trying to secure a trail easement for this section of trail.
- Example draft documents on hold until needed.

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

- Secured funding for appraisal – start of appraisal expected in June
- Short landowner agreement letter pending
- Goals: submit DNR grant app. 8/1; grant app. to Joint Venture & NACWA in July

Fiscal sponsorship: Finn & Kitchell will explore this with RFR

Adjourn: NEXT MEETING: July 13th @ 3 p.m.

Future Agendas:

- 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?