

**ad Hoc CAPP Trails Committee
January 21, 2013**

Members present: Mary Ross, Carol Neubauer, LeeAnn Schaub and Keith Sowl
Members absent:
Public present: Jon Berg

Call to order.

A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in members listed above. K. Sowl, acting Chair calls the meeting of the ad Hoc Trail Committee to order at 4:30 PM on Monday, January 21, 2013.

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair.

Agreement to table until more members are present.

Keith explains that at the last Town Board meeting an agenda item referenced the Trail Committee. Nick Nelson, Town Board Supervisor, thought that there are too many people using our Island trails and not enough people doing the work to keep the trails up. Keith said this is not necessarily true; John Berg clears the backyard trail and Jerry Smith does a lot of work on the North end trails. Nick Nelson thought the Town should have bigger role in trails so Keith said he would call the Trail Committee together to discuss trails, and to work on updating the Trails Master Plan for the Town Plan Commission's (TPC) update of the Comprehensive Plan.

2. Discussion/Review and/or Recommendation to Town Board: Trails Committee By-Laws.

Draft by-laws presented.

K. Sowl suggests that original trail committee members, because they were involved in the initial process should remain on the committee if they are interested.

Discussion of members and the representatives of the various organizations involved in trails: Town of La Pointe, the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve (MIWP), the Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce, the La Pointe School, the WI Dept of Natural Resources and the Madeline Island Ambulance Service.

K. Sowl said Carol Sowl will represent the La Pointe School. M. Ross said she represented the Ambulance Service and though she is no longer a member of the service she would like to stay on the committee. K. Sowl said Dr. Margie Frederickson wants to be on the committee. LeeAnn had represented the Chamber of Commerce but is no longer with the Chamber. She would like to stay on. K. Sowl said Bonnie Matuseski, MIWP board member would like to be a member. Ed Kale was to be at this meeting. Tibbs and John Berg have both expressed interest. Jerry Smith has respectfully declined but will continue to work on the trails.

The Ambulance Service and the Chamber of Commerce need to be contacted to see if the respective organizations would like to be represented.

The State Park/DNR also needs to be contacted. To be noted is that the State Park and the Town have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in regards to the trails at the lagoon. Short discussion of the possibility of a trail from Black Shanty to the State Park. A former ranger thought the State would not do that trail because the State wanted to limit the entry points into the park for security reasons.

M. Ross asked if the Town Board gave the trails committee specific direction. K. Sowl said no, the Board wanted to discuss town involvement with trails and update the master trail plan for the TPC.

K. Sowl will be unable to groom and track the North Shore Trail so J. Berg and K. Sowl will discuss a plan of action. Ron Harrold has helped K. Sowl in the past. Money has not been budgeted for gas. Question if this cost should be included in the 2014 budget. After discussion, agreement that as long as there is communication between members this committee works better as a volunteer organization. K. Sowl said he has used the Town's 4-wheeler to clear trails as he does not have a 4-wheeler, but does not put his time on his timecard as town foreman. J. Berg does not have a 4-wheeler. C. Neubauer has two and J. Berg could use one.

C. Neubauer communication among members is important – for example, she has no idea *when* a particular trail needs to be run over with a snowmobile unless someone says something. To her that is a very enjoyable hour spent on the trail. K. Sowl said sometimes it is not so much fun. The 4 wheelers used during hunting season decimated the trail. According to the MIWP you can hunt on MIWP land but no motorized vehicles are allowed. C. Neubauer said it is the same on the mainland. Snowmobile trails have been torn up by 4-wheelers and they also have gone on private property. You can put up signs but signs do not work.

Part of the North End Trail also needs to be moved as it is too close to a creek. C. Neubauer said in the fall, after hunting season we need to clear the trails. K. Sowl said it would help if this was done once a year.

K. Sowl said the trails committee drafted a trail easement which the Town signed and the MIWP was to sign but there were two or three private landowners who said no so he gave up. Agreement to wait until more members are present before discussing the by-laws.

3. Review of Trails/Sidewalk and/or Pedestrian/Bike Lanes.

4. Review of the Five Year Recreational Trails Master Plan.

In regards to item 8 of the five year plan: work with Park and Rec and County Forester. This came about because the school wrote a grant to make Capser Trail ADA accessible; one of the grant requirements was that the trail had to be associated with a school forest. Capser Trail is ADA accessible.

K. Sowl said he used to walk and clear the Lucy Meech Trail which is off the Capser Trail. He will send a town road employee to clear that trail.

K. Sowl said the bicycle trails on Hagen Road are done.

The North End Trail needs work and the name, North Shore Park Trail name needs to be changed to Lake Access.

K. Sowl said Nick Nelson is interested in the Big Bay Road Trail. This has to be done on snowshoes. This trail cannot be hiked in summer because of the swamps.

Bog and Creek adjacent to Rec Center can all be done on town land.

K. Sowl would like members to think about how the master plan could be updated. He would like to see the trail on the North End developed which consists of two loops, a short loop and an 8 mile loop. If the land is dry it is a nice hike but signage is needed. Jerry Smith has some nice signs at the intersections but more signs are needed.

There is still access through the Reuel Harmon forest but trail is not marked.

K. Sowl said there is a potential for a trailhead at Rieman Park but money would be needed to develop a parking lot, etc.

C. Neubauer asked if both loops should be done on Thursday. K. Sowl said yes. He had dragged the trail, it was beautiful and then it rained.

5. Schedule Next Meeting(s) and Agenda(s).

Agreement to schedule a meeting for Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 4:30 pm at Town Hall.

6. Adjourn.

Meeting ended at approximately 5:10 pm.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant

Minutes approved as amended April 25, 2013