

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

Members present: Mary Ross, Carol Sowl, Keith Sowl, Jon Berg, William "Tibbs" Tibble, Bonnie Matuscki, Ed Kale, and John Carlson
Members absent: Ron Harrold
Public present:

1. Call to order.

K. Sowl, acting Chair calls the meeting of the ad Hoc Trail Committee to order at 4:30pm on Thursday, February 21, 2013. A quorum of the committee is present as shown in members listed above. E. Kale will write down the motions.

Consensus to discuss agenda item #5 at this time.

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

Article 2.2: The former trail committee consisted of 10 members. 12 people are now interested in being on the trail committee. Question of what this committee is trying to achieve.

K. Sowl said the committee has to update the Five Year Master Plan. B. Matuscki asked if the update could be done by email or if there a State statute that requires a quorum of the committee to be present. A quorum consists of a majority.

A lengthy discussion followed in regards to quorums and alternate members.

Agreement by the committee to add Tibbs to the list of members Waggie typed up for a total of twelve members. Some members will represent various organizations and boards.

Motion by K. Sowl to amend the ad Hoc Trail Committee by-laws to state that the committee shall contain 12 members. Second, B. Matuscki. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

3. Recommendation to the Town Board: Appointment of Committee members.

Motion by Keith Sowl to recommend to the Town Board to appoint the following committee members as listed in Waggie's list with the addition of William "Tibbs" Tibble. Second, M. Ross. All in favor, all aye. Motion carried.

K. Sowl emailed the State Park asking if someone from the DNR would be interested in being on the committee but has not received a reply. Agreement to strike the State Park representative from the list. The State Park is more than welcome to give input.

Agreement to move to agenda item #2:

2. Minutes of the following meeting ad Hoc Trails Committee meeting to be considered for approval:

A. January 21, 2013

Tabled.

Agreement to move to agenda item #4

4. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair.

Motion by E. Kale that Keith Sowl be appointed chair. Second, B. Matuscki. No discussion. All in favor, all aye. Motion carried.

Motion by K. Sowl to appoint Lee Ann Merrill as vice chair. Second J. Berg. All in favor, all aye. Motion carried.

Agreement to move to agenda item #6:

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

This will fall under the review of the five year trail plan.

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

K. Sowl said Nick Nelson, Town Board supervisor thought that there should be more Town involvement in trails so that is one reason why this committee is meeting.

Another reason is that the Town Plan Commission (TPC) is updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan which will take some time.

The Town Board did not give a deadline as to when the final Five Year Recreational Trails Master plan should be completed, but K. Sowl would like this done as soon as possible.

Liability issues also need to be discussed relating to sanctioning the trails by the Town that are partially on private property.

Copies of the signs that have been up on the Nucy Meech and Casper Trails are in committee folders.

K. Sowl has submitted his thoughts in regards to updating the five year recreational trails master plan.

Casper Trail Discussion.

Trail Brochure: Agreement to find out from the Chamber what is included in the brochure and how many of the brochures the Chamber hands out. M. Ross said the Madeline Island Ferry Line (MIFL) refers people to the Chamber for the trails brochure. B. Matuseski gives out a trails brochure to her guests and the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve (MIWP) sends out their schedule with the trails map on the back. Some maps are in color; some black and white. Discussion of how to pay for more printed brochures. Is there money in the designated room tax for this? Question if the brochure should include all the trails? Are there liability issues?

Recommendations

#1: Question in regards to "accordance with grant stipulations." K. Sowl will check on what the grant stipulations are.

K. Sowl said the Casper Trail was pretty much built the way the trail was laid out in the original five year master plan so many of the recommendations have been struck from the original five year plan.

Maintaining the gravel will require work and equipment.

The committee needs to define how to take care of this trail according to grant standards so we do not lose the trail. Vegetation is growing in the trail. K. Sowl will find out if the Town Board prefers gravel or grass. Also need to find out if the type of trail would affect ADA accessibility as that was one of the reasons Casper trail was upgraded and a grant received. If there is one place on the island where people in wheelchairs can be in a woods this would be the trail.

Suggestion to use a power rake first and then drag the trail with an ATV after that. K. Sowl will look in the Parks budget to see if there is any money for trail maintenance.

3: Agreement to strike "(designate and register as School or Community forest)" as this was a requirement for a grant that was not applied for.

#5: Groom and maintain in winter for snowmobile, cross-country skiing". K. Sowl maintains Casper in the winter but cannot be on a snowmobile at this time. In summer the road crew takes the trees off the trail.

#6 – Maintain in summer for walking – the signs say bicycles are allowed. Question if bicycles will deteriorate the trails. Agreement that since high end mountain bikes most likely would not use this trail damage to the trail would be minimal. Bicycles will be allowed on Casper Trail.

#8 – Discussion that managing the forest is very difficult. B. Matuseski said the MIWP has to

manage the forest according to a management plan and cannot find anyone to do that.
Agree to strike #8.

Nucy Meech Trail

K. Sowl added #3: "add a wood chip trail". B. Matuseski said at the last MIWP meeting members said they look at this trail as a natural asset to the community and are very interested in having this trail improved. The trail is poorly marked, the trail bed needs to be improved, and the invasives are out of control. Suggestion that the intern who will manage invasives could take this on as a project.

Question of the cost, and what it would take to improve this trail.

Discussion of the ex-closure that was constructed by Bill Wheeler and the MIWP. The ex-closure is a small fence that had been constructed to show the type of vegetation that would grow without deer browse. There had been young cedars and vegetation growing in the enclosure that were not growing in the rest of the forest before the fence fell to ruin. The enclosure is a great educational opportunity and is salvageable. K. Sowl has emailed the MIWP in regards to the need for repair and B. Matuseski will bring this up at the next MIWP meeting.

K. Sowl said the Nucy Meech trail is exclusively on MIWP property so the town will not want to put Town dollars into the trail.

Recommendation #2 is to develop and maintain this trail as a walking, snowshoeing and interpretive trail.

K. Sowl said suggested that the MIWP come up with a plan and when the Town decided to make an improvement to the Casper Trail there would be coordination between the MIWP and the Town for both trails. This coordination would be between K. Sowl and a chosen MIWP contractor. B. Matuseski said the MIWP is involved and interested.

Bicycle Trails.

M. Ross does not wish to see Casper Trail as a bicycle trail. Suggestion to change the wordage from bicycle trail to bicycle lanes.

K. Sowl said in reviewing the Comp Plan, Mondamin Trail, Whitefish Street and Old Fort Road should have lanes along those roads.

M. Ross said to take out bike trails on North Shore Road.

Bicycle trails will be discussed more at a later date.

North End Trail

This is the first winter in a couple of years where there has been enough snow on the trail for winter activities.

Discussion that a trail easement is needed to make this a Town/MIWP sanctioned trail that is maintained and slowly upgraded. K. Sowl said he had an easement drawn up but negotiations fell through when one property owner refused to grant an easement.

K. Sowl said ATV use has to be dealt with.

Question if the trail is for non-motorized use and the trail goes over private property can the private property owner use an ATV on their part of the trail.

If you have a designated trail could you, by law, keep ATVs off the trails? C. Neubauer would be a great resource as she works on the trails in Bayfield.

Agreement that the Town cannot be involved in the trail unless there is a trail easement, similar to the easement between the Town and the MIWP for Casper Trail.

B. Matuseski said she informed the MIWP about this meeting and that Tom Kromroy and Steve Mueller really wanted to attend and that they would like to see the Trails Master Plan and figure

out how they can be involved. B. Matuseski said the MIWP is interested in making the North End trails year around trails and are also interested in the Nucy Meech trail. K. Sowl said upgrading the North End trails will require permits for culverts, wetlands, bridge crossing, navigable waters etc.

The North End trails are used by skiers and hikers. There are signs at the intersections but more signs could be used. Part of the trail consists of old logging trails, 30- 40 feet wide. There is a long straightaway which is a survey line and there are certain legs of the trails you could get lost on for a long time.

B. Matuseski asked if Nick Nelson had any specific goals. K. Sowl said he thought Nick thought the Town should be helping out with winter maintenance on the trails. In order to do that the trees on the trail have to be cleared. Jerry Smith cleared much of the trail but he did not get to the big loop. M. Ross said if we start involving the Town would there be rules and regulations to follow. The last meeting the committee agreed this is a volunteer organization. C. Sowl said you need coordination of volunteer efforts and suggested doing one leg of the trail. K. Sowl said he does not like group clean-ups; he would rather work by himself. J. Berg said you need chainsaws and something motorized to get back in there. C. Sowl said the use of ATVs for maintenance is allowed. K. Sowl said hunting season is the problem with ATVs. Tibbs suggested putting up signs: No ATVs. K. Sowl said if you want to upgrade the trail you need to get the easements.

B. Matuseski said to summarize what she will take back to the MIWP board is that it would be nice to have the North End Trails improved but if you do the improvements according to statutes that becomes difficult. K. Sowl would like to have easements so the trails would be for everyone to use. M. Ross said the North End trails are already being promoted and that is illegal because part of the trail is on private property.

K. Sowl said you could maintain the trails on a volunteer basis and then when the MIWP and Town work together you could say, make a bridge every couple of years or find some money and fix a bad spot.

8. Set Next Meeting(s) and Agenda(s).

K. Sowl will send out an email for firm commitments of open dates for the next Trails Committee meeting. A committee meeting will be first on the calendar as K. Sowl would like the Five Year Recreational Trails Master Plan wrapped up by early May 2013.

B. Matuseski said the MIWP meets March 27, 2013.

9. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by K. Sowl, second, Tibbs. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:45 pm

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

Minutes approved as amended April 25, 2013