



BIG SKY COMMUNITY CORPORATION

Trails Committee Meeting Minutes January 17, 2007

The Big Sky Community Corporation Trails Committee met on January 17, 2007 at 9:00 AM in the BSOA Conference Room. Committee members in attendance included: John Leeper (Chair), Jeanne Johnson, Steve Johnson, Denise Schmidt, Margaret Leeper, Ryan Hamilton and Bill Olson. Kate Halloran was in attendance representing the staff and Greg Benjamin of Stahly Engineering was in attendance to discuss the new bridge on the Spur Road Trail. Gary Vodehnal of Gallatin Valley Land Trust was also in attendance.

1. Call to Order

John Leeper, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

2. Minutes

John asked if anyone thought that changes were necessary for the October Meeting Minutes and everyone agreed that no changes were necessary.

3. Report on Spur Road Trail (Greg Benjamin) – Greg Benjamin from Stahly Engineering reported that the Spur Road project would be in two parts – the first part being the completion of the bridge over the west fork and the second part being the actual trail.

Greg told the committee that the “Memo of Agreement” had been sent, the encroachment permit was coming next week, all other permits were set and he was meeting with 3 Rivers the following week to figure out the best solution to work with the fiber optic line. Greg also told the committee that the bridge would be coming from Minnesota, pre-assembled in the April-May timeframe.

In terms of the trail itself, Bill Olson expressed the committee’s concerns in making sure that the trail stay on the Towncenter side of Spur Road – for specific reasons such as safety.

The committee agreed to keep the trail on the Town Center side of MT 64 and if necessary narrow the trail to 5 feet wide in critical areas where there are boundary problems or unstable slopes. This option is preferable to the expense alternative of extensive geo-tech work and soil nails.

4. Sub – Committee Assignments for New Year

- a) **New Trails/Master Planning/Easements** – Denise Schmidt will chair this sub-committee again for 2007.

- b) **Maintenance** – Steve Johnson will chair the Maintenance sub-committee again for 2007. Steve mentioned that we needed to get in touch with Jonathon (with Forest Service) for Ousel Falls maintenance. He also informed the group that a post needed to be erected between Yellow Mule and Buck Ridge.
- c) **Donation Collection** – Jeanne Johnson will chair this committee and continue to collect from our donation canisters. John will get a letter of agreement together to have signed when we figure out where we will be putting our donation canisters based on who will allow us.
- d) **Finance/Budget/Grant Writing** – John Leeper will chair this sub-committee again for 2007. Currently John is working on the 3 Rivers Grant Application. We need to get working on a Resort Tax request for April.
- e) **USFS Liaison** – Bob Donovan has not been at the meeting recently, so Pete and Steve thought perhaps they could pull Todd Thesing back into the mix.
- f) **Maps/Signage** – Pete Bolane will be heading up this sub-committee again.
- g) **Public Relations/Fund Raising/Events** – Tracy was suggested to chair this sub-committee, however with her pregnancy it is unclear whether she will be able to participate.
- h) **Spur Road Trail** – Bill Olson will remain project manager for this project.

5. New Business – Steve suggested perhaps having a party tied in with Grizzly Outfitters or GAS to celebrate the bridge and to get community input regarding the trails. Ryan volunteered the Simkins Showroom as a location, with the fire pit outside.

Beehive – the lower portion (firehouse) to trailhead – Bill said Whipple would be donating 10K that would need to be used by the end of the year. Currently we have easements up to the Whipple house; we need some with Summit View. Bill's told the committee his vision is to connect Mountain Village to Beehive.

John appointed Ryan Hamilton Vice Chair of the Trails Committee.

6. Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Trails Committee will be Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 9 AM in the BSOA conference room.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.