

## Minutes of BFN 6-5-13

Attendance: Anne Ferrara, Lola Bogyo, Jean Webster, Joan MacCracken

1, Discussion of our new project, "The Young's Point Road" Nature Trail. That afternoon Joan met with Julie Isbil, a National Park Service representative from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. Julie, Joan, and John Gray walked the 2.3 acre site located on the right about half way down Young's Point Road, between pole number 9 and number 7. They were able to locate both back boundary markers which border on the Conservation Trust parcel which includes 40 acres and includes Bagaduce River shore frontage.

At an informal chat after walking the land, Julie explained the mission of the program, to assist communities make outdoor access available to our citizens because not all citizens can get to National Parks. There are two employees working on the program within the State, and each year eight or nine new communities or organizations are chosen to be assisted by these experts. Julie has worked for fourteen years. If an organization is chosen after submitting an application, they can be helped in two ways. Either in a consultative manner which would include some phone calls, perhaps a few meetings and encouragement. Or the project can be assisted in a more intense manner with more frequent meetings and several ways of coaching. There is no financial commitment from the National Park Service, but coaching with expert advise is made available. After hearing about our dream of creating a wheel-chair and walker accessible nature trail on the site, plus an area for a nature playground for young children and a trail for riding tricycles or strider bikes for toddlers or strollers, Julie enthusiastically encouraged BFN to apply. To be successful there must be several "stakeholders" involved. Letters of support from outside agencies or programs need to be submitted. We discussed what other organizations we could enlist for support of the project. Some ideas included the Penobscot Nursing Home, Deer Isle Nursing Home, Friendship Cottage, the local schools for pre-school utilization, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust which may be taking over the Castine, Brooksville, Penobscot Conservation Trust lands. As our land is adjacent to this trust land, cooperation on trails would be important. Healthy Peninsula is interested healthy aging and certainly being outdoors and in Nature is healthy for our aging population as well as our young children which fits with HP's early childhood initiative.

Currently, the town has voted to put aside 1000 dollars towards beginning to pursue this project. The selectmen have encouraged BFN to proceed with plans and proposals. Julie stated that if local funding support is obtained, this is a great message for outside funding to make matching grants.

Jason Lepper has walked the land and believes that there is a healthy stand of various trees on the drier area of the property. He does not feel it would be too big a job to clear and chip the fallen trees and remove several dead or dying trees. We would use chips to begin to plan the trail layout. Due to the wet area on the right back side of the property, the DEP would most likely have to be contacted to see what we could or could not do to this area. There is a lovely stream that runs through the property and proper bridging would need to be used. A wooden elevated pathway such as the Orono Bog trail might be able to be built in the wet area. At least 2/3 of the property appears to be

dry and relatively flat, suitable for a walking trail. Part of the back boundary has a large, lovely wild field for bird and nature observations. If we eventually hooked up with the trails on the conservation trust, users would be able to get to a water view.

Julie pointed out that children have been shown to play more creatively in Nature playgrounds using boulders, tree stumps, etc. She encouraged us to not drastically clear, making it into a parklands but to keep several elements of the natural habitat. Julie also suggested we look at our Town's comprehensive plan to see if there are recommendations for open spaces and trails in the town.

A small group of volunteers is now beginning to form. So far, we have these Brooksville residents

John Gray, as selectmen Town representative

Jason Lepper, land management and clearing experience

Brian Keegstra, Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust steward, experienced in woodlands

Al Abrahamson- landscape architect--former long time resident of Brooksville

Joan MacCracken-coordinator of the Brooksville Friends and Neighbors

Lola Bogyo--member of BFN

Other interested citizens are invited to get involved. We wish this to be a full community effort.

#### Next steps

1. Mark more definitive with tape, the boundaries of the property
2. Contact the DEP representative in Bangor to look at the parcel and assess possible wetlands area. (Brian and Joan)
3. Begin to clear some of the fallen trees and underfooting to be able to get an idea of landscape, map tree varieties and size, locate large boulders, map stream which crosses the land. (Jason will need assistance with this task)
4. Submit application due August 1, 2013. (Joan will take lead on this)  
Letters of support will have to be obtained before August 1 deadline.
5. Notify abutters of the project.

#### Other discussions

The Brooksville Community Memorial Walk on the Varnumville Road will be held on Sunday, July 21st at 8:30am. This has been successful and this year we will honor 8 who died in 2012. Roscoe Rankin, Jr, Philip Billings, Ruby Howard, Frank Bell, Sr, Grace Dillon, Wayne Grindle, Granville Henthorne, Jeanne Twitchell

#### Next Steps

1. Letters need to be sent out to the family members within the next 2-3 weeks  
(Lola and Anne will do this)( Joan has addresses from Gayle Clifford)
2. Tinder Hearth has been notified of date but Joan will follow-up
3. Breakfast Shed needs to be notified.
4. Blue Roof Homesteaders need to be notified to ask for parking site on driveway

5. Fire Department- Matt Dow-- should be called to ask for two firemen to man either end of Varnumville Road for two hours. 8:30 to 10:30. (Joan will do)
6. On Saturday July 20th a bucket of flowers must be obtained, possibly donated by Annie Kimball or Tinder Hearth gardens (need volunteer for this)
7. Potential musicians should be approached for short musical interlude. Maybe Kurt Brand? any Tinder Hearth members
8. Possibly follow-up call the members of the deceased families the week before to encourage participation. (Anne, Jean Webster, and Lola volunteered)
9. Publicity placed in the Packet and the Breeze -Joan will do
10. Contact Harborside representative to see if any other summer folks died in 2012
11. Contact Yacht club to see if Brooksville summer residents died in 2012

At Home Downeast will have a fundraiser Monday June 10th at 7:30 with Simmerpot in Blue Hill Park with Flash in the Pans Pans and Pizza. ALL are invited to attend and support these two valuable organization. Also on July 30 Tuesday At Home Downeast will have another fundraiser with Alan Flowers directed choral show Broadway Review at the Emlen Hall in Blue Hill. Singers from the peninsula are invited to join his choir, there are seven practices in July and two concert. Please come to this and support AHD. AHD continues to add new members and we continue to invite neighbors to join us in volunteering. There is a new-volunteer meeting on June 12th at Blue Hill Congo Church Further information call Kara Janes at 374-5852.

Next Meeting is July 3rd, 6:30pm. All welcome. We have plenty to do!