



OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Monday, July 18, 2016
150 Ski Hill Road

3:30pm	<i>Site Visit to Cucumber Gulch Preserve (meet at south side of Town Hall prepared to hike)</i>	
5:30pm	<i>Call to Order, Roll Call</i>	
5:35pm	<i>Discussion/approval of Minutes</i>	2
5:40pm	<i>Discussion/approval of Agenda</i>	
5:45pm	<i>Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)</i>	
5:50pm	<i>Staff Summary</i> Wellington Bus Turnaround Field Season Update Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update Forest Health Treatment Updates Open Space and Trails Manager Hiring	7
6:00pm	<i>Open Space and Trails</i> Cucumber Gulch Preserve	9
6:45pm	<i>Executive Session</i>	
7:15pm	<i>Adjourn</i>	

For further information, please contact the Open Space and Trails Program at
970-453-3189 (Tony) or 970-547-3155 (Scott).

Roll Call

Jeff Cospolich called the June 20th BOSAC meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Matt Powers, Gavin Dalgliesh, Craig Campbell, Wendy Wolfe, Elizabeth Miller and Jeff Carlson. Staff members present were Scott Reid, Peter Grosshuesch and Tony Overlock. Mayor Eric Mamula and local resident Pat McShane were also present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

Open Space Manager hiring update was added to the agenda.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Staff Summary

Wellington Bus Turnaround

Staff continues to work with Summit County, the EPA, the Town Engineering Department, and other partners to implement the restoration of the “red ponds” above the Wellington Neighborhood and construction of the Wellington bus turnaround. Currently, the EPA and CDPHE have provided a letter of approval (a.k.a. a “comfort letter”) for the Town and County attorneys to review. The EPA has also stated that no funding will be provided for the proposed project because it does not significantly improve water quality in the French Gulch drainage. As previously discussed, the Town and County have agreed to split the approximately \$160,000 cost to fund the restoration of the red ponds. The infrastructure for the bus turnaround would be funded largely by the Town’s general fund with a contribution from the Wellington Neighborhood developer. The “comfort letter” from the EPA and CDPHE is a good first step, but the Town and County attorneys have insisted that we receive approval from the other signers of the B&B Mines consent decree in order for us to proceed with the project. These other approvals may take time, though, which could delay or even prevent the project from going forward this year. Town staff is working to contact the other signers to get the necessary approvals.

Mr. Cospolich: If the turnaround doesn’t get completed this year, will there be issues with other bus stops in the Wellington neighborhood?

Mr. Reid: Town Council has asked the Wellington Neighborhood/Lincoln Park developer to provide a formal proposal in response to the homeowner’s request to consider a pedestrian bridge on Bridge Street to connect the Lincoln Park neighborhood as a possible solution. This is somewhat related to the bus turnaround issue because the previous proposal was for the bus to cross a vehicular bridge on Bridge Street to access the Lincoln Park development.

Mr. Grosshuesch: If the turnaround does not get approved and completed this year, we will probably see the status quo continue for the near term.

Mr. Dalgliesh: Is someone going to inform the Wellington Neighborhood residents about the turnaround situation?

Mr. Reid: This BOSAC discussion is part of that public input and information process. Once a decision has been made, the Town will communicate clearly with the Wellington neighborhood through their HOA representatives explaining the process the Town and County is going through, and whether the turnaround is approved this year.

Mr. Powers: Is there a chance it might not get approved?

Mr. Reid: Yes, there is a potential it might not get approved, but we will do what we can to see the project completed.

Pump Track Update

Construction of the new pump track was completed on June 1st by FlowRide Designs. As part of the contract, FlowRide Designs also provided an educational session for the trail crew on water management, shaping, compaction, design and improvements for overall Wellington Bike Park. The trail crew has installed a fence along Stables Drive, constructed a picnic table, and made improvements to original pump track. The new Wellington Pump Track sign and Dero Bike Fixit station will be installed shortly. We have received many positive public comments so far on the new pump track addition and will continue to monitor the site.

Mr. Cospolich: How many hours of maintenance do you estimate the trail crew will perform on the Wellington Bike Park per week?

Mr. Overlock: I would estimate about five hours a week to maintain the park.

Ms. Wolfe: Have you had any problems with trash left behind?

Mr. Overlock: So far it's not been an issue.

Field Season Update

The Town trail crew has been extremely busy since the start of the field season and has completed a variety of tasks associated with the annual work plan, including:

- Completed two reroutes on Lower Flume.
- Constructed a reroute on the lower portion of Mike's Trail.
- Implemented the seasonal closure of Cucumber Gulch Preserve.
- Conducted a service project with Breckenridge Elementary fifth grade class on Carter Park, Moonstone and Sunbeam Trails.
- Assisted Higher Ground Earthworks in stabilizing the river bank along Vista Point Trail.
- Removed numerous downed trees system-wide.
- Finished Wellington Bike Park improvements and installed a fence along Stables Drive.
- Routinely updated trail conditions on social media.

Staff will continue to update BOSAC on field season projects, especially as they relate to the annual work plan.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update

The Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT) has hosted two events this month. June 4th was a tree planting day in which fifteen volunteers planted 500 tree seedlings and spread fifty pounds of native grass and wildflower seed on one of the Town's recent forest health treatment sites. On June 18th, FOBT partnered with IMBA Trail Care Crew. The day consisted of a morning classroom session on trail sustainability concepts followed by an afternoon session constructing trail on the Mineral Hill Trail. The event was well attended with over thirty-five volunteers attending from IMBA and local organizations, including the Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service, Summit Fat Tire Society, Summit Mountain Bike Club, and Summit County Open Space.

The next scheduled volunteer event is July 9th, which is a weed pull in Cucumber Gulch Preserve. Volunteers will be removing false chamomile and Canada thistle. BOSAC members are encouraged to attend at least one of our volunteer events every year. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the FOBT program. Dates can be found via the Town's [website](#).

Website Revision

The Town of Breckenridge is currently in the process of updating its website. One of the many updates will be relocating the Open Space and Trails page to the Recreation Department section. The new format is intended to be more user-friendly and optimized for mobile devices. Staff will update BOSAC as this website overhaul gets underway.

USFS Golden Horseshoe Forest Health Treatments

As discussed over the past several years, the USFS timber contractor has begun forest health treatments in the Golden Horseshoe, including areas adjacent to the Highlands and Huron Heights. The forest health treatments should continue through the summer and will result in over 1,000 additional acres of treated forest lands. Users in the area should anticipate newly cleared areas, falling trees, heavy equipment, and hauling trucks. Staff will update BOSAC as these projects continue.

Ms. Miller: It would be a good idea to post information about the Forest Service cuts on social media.

Mayor Mamula: I am a strong supporter of the Open Space program and its vision. Thank you for your time and attention to BOSAC. This program has come a long way since its 1996 inception. If you have any questions for me, please don't be afraid to ask.

Open Space

BOSAC Meeting Norms

Attached, please find a copy of the BOSAC meeting norms. These norms were established several years ago among Town commissions and, when followed, help ensure efficient and productive BOSAC meetings. Please review these norms and come to the meeting prepared to ask any questions you have about BOSAC meeting conduct.

Mr. Reid: I would like to emphasize a few points within the norms: Please refrain from side conversations when someone is speaking. We can all benefit from the questions or comments that are being made. As a commission, we strive for consensus within our group and speak to the public regarding consensus points. Please discuss issues at our meetings and not via emails. Using the meeting

forum allows us to all benefit from the conversation and reach group decisions. Thanks for your work on BOSAC.

Mr. Grosshuesch: I would like to reiterate the open forum discussion point. We really strive to avoid email conversations as a group. It's much better for staff and the general public to handle these discussions in meetings.

Mr. Cospolich: These are not just BOSAC norms but apply to other Town councils and commissions as well.

Winter Traffic Counts

Since 2010, the Town of Breckenridge Open Space division has conducted annual trail user counts at Peabody Trailhead, B&B Trailhead, and Sallie Barber Road/Lincoln Townsite Trailhead. The monitoring is in place during the winter months from January until April. Data counts are used to help guide management at these popular portals. Please see the attachment for additional information.

In summary:

- B&B Trailhead had the highest average daily counts for the past three years.
- This was the first year B&B Trailhead did not see an increase in average daily counts.
- Sallie Barber Trailhead average daily count has not showed any major change in the last 6 years.
- Sallie Barber Road experiences more summertime than wintertime use.
- Peabody Trailhead was the only trailhead which saw a significant increase in average daily counts.
- Peabody Trailhead consistently has significant user variations between weekends and weekdays.

Mr. Grosshuesch: This data would be helpful to predict where we might see incidences of user conflict. We should continue to collect data from these points for long range planning.

Mr. Cospolich: Mr. Overlock, did you see anything alarming from the Winter Count study?

Mr. Overlock: Everything is pretty consistent over the past several years.

Mr. Dalgliesh: The increase of numbers at the Peabody trailhead might signify a need for more groomed Nordic trails. Fat biking and dog-friendly trails are also in demand, perhaps.

Open Space Manager Hiring Update

Mr. Reid: We are in the process of hiring for the new Open Space Manager position. We've interviewed a dozen candidates and narrowed it down to seven. We will start conducting personal interviews the week of July 4th and hopefully have the position filled by August.

Mr. Carlson made a motion to adjourn the BOSAC meeting. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 18th at 5:30 pm in the Lower Level Conference Room at Breckenridge Town Hall 150 Ski Hill Road.

Jeff Cospolich, Chair

Memorandum

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission
From: Open Space Staff
Re: July 18, 2016 Meeting

Staff Summary**Wellington Bus Turnaround**

Town and Summit County staffs have continued working on the Wellington Bus Turnaround project. The primary goal has been to secure written permission from the four “trustees” of the B&B Mines consent decree to allow the excavation project to proceed. To date, staff has secured the necessary permissions from the four trustees (Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife) as well as from the State of Colorado Attorney General’s office. These permissions have allowed staff to pursue final funding for the project. The Town has committed \$80,000 in open space funding to the project and Summit County has also approved an \$80,000 contribution, split between open space and Safety First funds. The restoration and bus turnaround construction project is scheduled to begin in September and be completed in 2016.

Field Season Update

The summer field construction season is in full swing. The following projects are completed or underway:

- French Creek Trail was stabilized via a new rock wall adjacent to French Creek.
- Mineral Hill Trail construction has begun with support from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and several volunteer groups (see FOBT update below).
- Realignment of portions of the Great Flume Trail has begun and should be completed in time for the BOSAC meeting.
- Cucumber Gulch Preserve trails were opened as scheduled on July 5th.
- Barney Ford Trail is being revamped in the section through the recent clear cut. So far, crews have been staging material to improve the berms and rollers and enhance drainage.
- Peaks Connector Trail has been flagged with Breckenridge Ski Resort and U.S. Forest Service. Construction is scheduled for this fall during EpicPromise day.
- Galena Ditch Trail corridor has been flagged and cleared for the July 23-24 Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado project.
- Routine trail evaluations and drainage work has occurred throughout the trail system.

Friends of Breckenridge Trails Update

Several Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT) projects have been recently completed or are upcoming. Those include:

- Twenty volunteers from a church-based youth group from Missouri conducted work on the Mineral Hill Trail. This was the fifth year in a row the group has conducted work with the FOBT program.
- Six volunteers attended the weed pull in Cucumber Gulch Preserve on July 9th.
- Thirty volunteers from a church-based youth group from Texas conducted work on the Mineral Hill Trail.
- Twenty youth volunteers from Bold Earth, a teen based adventure program, conducted work on the Mineral Hill Trail. Nick Truitt from Breckenridge Bike Guides helped organize this event with FOBT.

Our largest volunteer event of the year in partnership with Summit County Government and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) is scheduled for July 23-24 on the Galena Ditch Trail. Staff encourages all BOSAC members to attend the VOC event, or another volunteer date, to better understand and participate in the Friends of Breckenridge Trails volunteer work. The FOBT program continues to produce measurable results across the open space system while also supporting a strong stewardship work ethic among citizens and visitors.

Forest Health Treatment Updates

Work continues on the USFS forest health treatments in the Golden Horseshoe. Significant tree clearing and hauling has occurred. This work will continue this summer until the approximately 500-acre project is completed. According to USFS staff, the remaining 500 acres scheduled to be cut in the Golden Horseshoe have not yet been assigned to a contractor.

Town staff is working with homeowners in the Highlands subdivision to complete additional minor tree removal to address fire hazard. The homeowners have successfully secured a \$6,000 Summit Wildfire Council grant to address dead and downed trees on Town open space. Staff has agreed to partially support the tree removal work up to 30% of the project cost, which is consistent with previous partnership tree removal projects in the vicinity. Staff is awaiting a final contractor cost estimate before agreeing to an exact contribution amount and will update BOSAC as the project progresses.

Open Space and Trails Manager Hiring

Staff is currently working to complete the Open Space and Trails recruitment. The job posting resulted in twenty-four highly qualified applicants, ten telephone interviews and six in-person interviews. Staff provided a conditional offer to an applicant with extensive land acquisition, budgeting and staff management experience. Pending acceptance of the conditional offer and completed background checks, the new Open Space and Trails Manager should be in place by September 12th. Thanks to BOSAC member Matt Powers and the rest of the interview panel who assisted with this hiring process.

Open Space and Trails

Cucumber Gulch Preserve

Cucumber Gulch Preserve was opened by the trail crew as scheduled on July 5th. Trail use has increase tremendously since opening, and by all accounts, this year's closure implementation was very successful. The docent has been working in Cucumber Gulch Preserve and we will await a final report from her and Christy's work.

As discussed during the site visit, the northern spreader pond failed a few weeks ago and no beaver activity has been documented in Upper Cucumber Gulch this spring. These two developments are concerning and staff is working with Cucumber consultants to determine the best next steps. Options include: do nothing and monitor; utilizing hand crews, repairing the dam breach; repair the breach with machinery; consider introducing more beaver(s) to the area with Colorado Parks and Wildlife permission; evaluate the inflows to determine whether there are better ways to trap incoming sediment.

Staff seeks BOSAC's general recommendations regarding Cucumber Gulch Preserve. Specifically:

- 1. Does BOSAC have any clarifying questions regarding the current status of Cucumber Gulch Preserve?*
- 2. Does BOSAC have any consensus recommendations for staff to consider regarding the breach in the northern spreader pond?*
- 3. Does BOSAC have any recommendations for the current management approach of Cucumber Gulch Preserve?*