

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE  
*OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION*  
Monday, July 19, 2010  
150 Ski Hill Road

3:30 Site visit to proposed Wellington Bridge. Meet at Town Hall.

4:30 Call to Order, Roll Call

4:35 Discussion/approval of Minutes – June 14, 2010

4:40 Discussion/approval of Agenda

4:45 Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

4:50 Staff Summary

- Xcel Energy Tree Clearing
- River Trail Update
- Wellington Oro
- Cucumber Gulch

5:15 Open Space and Trails

- Event Use on the Peaks Connect Trail
- Joint BOSAC/Town Council Meeting

5:50 Commissioner Issues

5:55 Adjourn

6:00 Walk to Beaver Run for SustainableBreck Breakout Meetings on Open Space and Wildlife

For further information, please contact the Open Space and Trails Program at 547.3110 (Heide) or 547.3155 (Scott).

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**Memorandum**

To: Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission  
From: Heide Andersen, Open Space and Trails Planner III  
Mark Truckey, Asst. Director of Community Development  
Scott Reid, Open Space and Trails Planner II  
Re: June 14, 2010 meeting

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**Staff Summary****River Trail Update**

The scheduled improvements for the River Trail on the western side of the Blue River have been completed and Mayor Warner presided over a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The town trail crew will be working on the proposed improvements to the eastern bank trail later in the summer. Based on limited access and some public feedback, staff plans to retain the more rugged and narrow trail experience on the eastern side trail. Please check out the newly reopened River Trail when you get a chance.

**Wellington Oro**

Staff from the Town Open Space, Engineering, and Public Works met with Victor Ketellaper of the EPA and his replacement Christine Proggess. A couple things were noteworthy that staff felt BOSAC should know about. First of all, the EPA still has \$1.5 million in an escrow account to use for reclamation/restoration activities in conjunction with the Wellington Oro project. The funds are to be used in the area between the Wellington Neighborhood and Country Boy Mine. The EPA will lose these monies to their general fund soon if a project is not initiated. The Town and EPA discussed getting started on the development of a plan to address such a project.

Another piece of news from that project was that the Town contracted with Nyrstar out of Clarksville, TN, to have our zinc concentrate product coming from the Wellington Oro Water Treatment Plan hauled to their plant and used in such products and zinc die casting alloys. They will be paying a fee for the product and paying for the hauling costs, which will offset the price of the bagging of the product by the Town. In the coming week, 3 trucks will be hauling 72 tons of the zinc concentrate (that has been collected over the last 18 months) to Tennessee. This product re-use is considered to be much more environmentally and financially palatable than paying to haul the zinc concentrate to the landfill.

**Cucumber Gulch**

Christy Carello and her students have completed the field work for the gondola impact study. The report will be available soon and the results will be presented to BOSAC.

Town Open Space and Engineering staff met with Vail Resorts to evaluate the drainage issue below Peak 8. There were no inconsistencies in the One Ski Hill Place stormwater drainage system that would have caused the erosion, but it is possible that it has occurred

because of on-mountain impacts or changes to the drainage going under Ski Hill Road that occurred prior to the construction of One Ski Hill Place. Staff will continue to work with the Breckenridge Ski Resort, Tetratex and our consultants to determine the cause of the erosion and the potential options for mitigation. Glenwild drainage was also evaluated. It actually seemed to be functioning well and it will be monitored over time to see if this continues to be the case.

## **Open Space and Trails**

### **Event Use on the Peaks Connect Trail**

Jeff Westcott of Maverick Sports Promotions has requested an audience with BOSAC for two potential events.

First, for the past two years, BOSAC has approved the use of the Peaks Connect Trail through the Cucumber Gulch Preserve for the Breckenridge Crest Marathon trail running event. The rationale for this annual approval (and variance to the 10-person group size limit in Cucumber Gulch Preserve) included: 1) the trail use occurred at the end of a long and grueling race in which people were spread out so less than ten people would likely be in the Preserve at one time; 2) foot traffic generally has less trail impact to the trails; 3) aid stations were moved away from the Preserve entrance to reduce trailside litter; and 4) the event promoter will perform an immediate sweep of the trail following the last participant. Mr. Westcott will be present to request permission for use of the Peaks Connect Trail for the Breckenridge Crest Marathon event this summer (Labor Day weekend).

The second event request for which Mr. Westcott is requesting use of the Peaks Connect is the Peaks Time Trial race within the Summit Mountain Challenge. This event releases approximately 150 mountain bikers at thirty second intervals to ride from Breckenridge to Frisco on the Peaks Trail. Mr. Westcott is requesting use of the Peaks Connect trail because 1) the starting line for the event could be accommodated in the Breckenridge Nordic Center parking lot; 2) the associated kids' races are currently based out of the Nordic Center and run through the Shock Hill trails; and 3) the interval start and uphill route of the proposed course through Cucumber Gulch Preserve would preclude passing by event participants. Mr. Westcott will be present at BOSAC meeting to request permission for use of the Peaks Connect trail for Peaks Time Trial event scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Joint BOSAC/Town Council Meeting**

The Joint BOSAC/ Town Council meeting is scheduled for August 10th at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers. This annual joint meeting is a good opportunity for BOSAC members to discuss issues of concern with Town Council. Staff has identified the following as potential agenda topics for the discussion: USFS Travel Management Plan, acquisition priorities, and Cucumber management and monitoring. Staff encourages BOSAC to think of topics that they would like to bring up for discussion at this meeting.

### ***Roll Call***

Dennis Kuhn called the June 14, 2010 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:51 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Jen McAtamney, Scott Yule, Devon O'Neil, and Jeff Cospolich, and Erin Hunter. Staff members present were Scott Reid, Mark Truckey, Peter Grosshuesch, and Lynn Zwaagstra.

### ***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes were approved as presented.

### ***Approval of Agenda***

Mr. Reid asked to add event marking as an agenda item.

### ***Public Comments***

There were no public comments.

### **Staff Summary**

#### **Summer Trail Map**

Mr. Kuhn: I think it is appropriate for BOSAC to receive a copy of the map so we can help review and promote it.

Ms. McAtamney: Where are the maps available for sale? (At the Breckenridge Welcome Center and at various retailers in the area.)

Ms. Zwaagstra: We'd also like to carry them at the Rec Center.

### **Open Space and Trails**

#### **Peak 7/8 Trail**

Mr. Reid outlined the overall goals and issues with the Peak 7/8 trail connection, then requested BOSAC feedback regarding the trail alignment as witnessed during the site visit.

Mr. Cospolich: I think the alignment is fine, but I would think that crusher fines would be useful along the portion of trail that was build along the CR 3 alignment. It will improve the trail for mountain bike use.

Mr. O'Neil: I like the alignment and think it will help alleviate pressure on Cucumber Gulch trails.

Ms. Hunter: If traffic continues to increase on the Peaks Connect, I would like to see us consider removing the entry sign to the Peaks Connect trail, as it just encourages more use.

Mr. Yule: Can we review the directional sign on the Peaks Trail (sending users along the Peak 7/8 trail) before you fabricate it? Perhaps we should include mileage on it.

Mr. Kuhn: I like the idea of a bridge over the alpine slide and the alpine coaster. I like the alignment and think we should consider renaming the Peaks Connect Trail. Is the goal to construct the Peak 7/8 trail this year? (Yes, pending USFS approval.)

### **U.S. Forest Service Referrals**

Mr. Reid provided an overview of two USFS referrals, including removal of cabins at Lincoln town site and in French Gulch, and a proposed driveway to the Cosie D Lode claim. Eric Twitty is performing an historic analysis of the cabins and we plan to refer to his findings in the referral to the USFS. If Mr. Twitty finds any historic value to the cabins, it is likely that the USFS will be asking for partners to manage cabins they don't tear down.

Ms. McAtamney: I like the idea of using Eric Twitty to outline our evaluation of the cabins.

Mr. Kuhn: It seems like Angie May's cabin is not a threat to anyone, but if the USFS wants to remove it, fine.

Mr. O'Neil: The USFS will be displacing a lot of users if they turn the "Poop Loop" or "Squatter's Trail" into a driveway. We should request that the USFS somehow account for the users in this decision because that is a very popular route in winter and summer. They should provide for an alternative alignment for the trail users.

Ms. Hunter: I represented the HOA in the original lawsuit filed by the landowner. I am suspicious of the motives here, as the landowner told me that he plans to sell the house and try to get it annexed into the town to make more money off of the development.

Ms. McAtamney: Could part of our comment be that they have not exhausted all of their options to this point?

Ms. Hunter: I question whether this is an historic double track as is stated in the referral.

Mr. Grosshuesch: I think we should request that the driveway remain at backcountry zoning standards. It should not be improved. Also, the plat note from the Wellington Neighborhood should be quoted.

### **2011 Budget**

Mr. Truckey detailed the proposed 2011 budget. There is an increase in the land acquisition amount because Cucumber Gulch debt service will be paid off in 2010. Money for the Claimjumper/Wedge acquisition is included as a placeholder. We are hoping for a big exchange to help this acquisition proceed. Otherwise, there is a flat budget with a few additions. The B&B cleanup amount still needs additional funding for operations. This is a required expenditure through the consent decree and the open space fund may need to be tapped to handle the staffing for the water treatment plant. The vast majority of expenditures go towards acquisitions. The consultant line item has been proposed to increase \$10,000 based on gondola discussion and evaluations needed in Cucumber Gulch. We reduced professional services line item because it was largely forest health-related and much of that work has been completed. We will still have to

address Town open space forest health needs but it will be less costly in the future. Trails construction is increased for a placeholder for the Wellington Trail bridge. BOSAC needs to decide what to do with the Wellington Bridge. \$90,000 is set aside for Golden Horseshoe projects (matched by County). Regarding revenue, there is a 1% growth assumption, which is conservative.

Ms. McAtamney: I suggest keeping the amount up for tree treatments to address the new town ordinance requirement for removing dead and infested trees. Can we increase the price of TDR's? I think Council should speak with the BOCC on this topic.

Mr. Cospolich: Change "Other professional services" to "Forest and vegetation management" to be more clear. Grants should be included in the pro forma under revenues.

Ms. Hunter: Do we have a goal for reserves? If the TDR's don't change, it looks dire.

Mr. Truckey: That is the intent of the pro forma and we can adjust accordingly. We have no set amount that we plan to keep in the bank. Interest can also be significant if a larger balance is kept. \$500,000 as a decent balance to keep for flexibility, but that is BOSAC and Council's call.

Ms. McAtamney: Will we still be acquiring property in 2019?

Mr. Truckey: I think we will, but the properties will be expensive.

BOSAC agreed with the overall budget direction.

### **Event Marking**

Mr. Reid outlined the event marking issue. Recently, staff received complaint letter regarding flagging for race events. Staff currently requires removal of all course markings within 24 hours and we exact a trail fee to help with the cost of trail maintenance. Does BOSAC have any other thoughts regarding course marking requirements staff should place on events? Should flagging be forbidden based on this complaint?

Ms. McAtamney: Is there an industry standard on which we can rely? (No, but Westy sets good example with his events.) We should address this issue through special events permit.

Ms. Zwaagstra: We have our volunteers and staff members sweep the course immediately after the event. The problem with last Weds event was high winds and a staffing shortage, but we are working hard to take care of this issue.

Mr. Kuhn: I think staff should review the trails the day after an event. (Staff will make an effort to evaluate trails following events.)

### **Commissioner Issues**

Mr. Cospolich: I would like regular trail use counts as they are available. (Staff will work on compiling and emailing that info to BOSAC.)

Mr. Kuhn: What is the update on the historic signs in French Gulch? (The Heritage Alliance is rethinking the design, but still wants to install those signs this year.) How is the dog waste cleanup at B&B Trailhead going? (Staff has hired Timberline trash service to empty the can once a week.)

***Next Meeting***

The next regularly scheduled BOSAC meeting is on July 19, 2010 at 5:30 pm in the Administrative Conference Room in the Breckenridge Town Hall (150 Ski Hill Road). A 4:00 site visit on mountain bikes is scheduled prior to the meeting to the proposed Wellington Bridge site.

Ms. Hunter motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Cospolich seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Dennis Kuhn, Chair