

Minutes of the November 5, 2018 Bolton Trails Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Andrew "Drew" Schaubhut (chair), Steve Rothman (note taker), Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Larry Kunz, Jeff Bryan, Chris Fitzgerald, Greg Matte, Alexis Arapoff

1. Greg presented a proposal for a Bolton "All Trails" club. To become a member, you need to hike all the trail segments in the Bolton Trails book. Greg is proposing to create a patch/badge for members of the club; he presented several possibilities and folks gave him feedback. There will be an application form on the Trails Committee website (when we have a website again). Membership will be on the honor system. Greg estimates that although there are only about 47 miles of trail segments, to hike them all will be about twice that distance. Greg is leading walks for the local Boy Scout troop to become the initial members of the club (after Greg, of course!).
2. In the absence of the Trails Committee website, the maps have been temporarily put on both the Town ConCom and the Bolton Conservation Trust websites:
<https://www.townofbolton.com/conservation-commission/pages/trail-maps-0>
<http://www.boltonconservationtrust.org/properties-maps/>
The committee felt that a column should be added to the table of map areas to show the total length of the trail segments in each area. LATE NEWS: Rebecca has done that for the copy on the ConCom website.
3. Rebecca hosted a trail walk on November 2 at Annie Moore. The next walk is tentatively set for Friday, November 30, location TBD. Rebecca plans to continue the walks throughout the winter. One or more might be snowshoe walks, depending on conditions. Several folks noted we'd need to find a way to make snowshoes available for folks who don't own them; perhaps a local business would be interested in loaning them, or renting them at a low cost. The snowshoe walks might be jointly organized with the Bolton Parks and Recreation Commission.
4. In a project organized by Chris Fitzgerald, some additional trail segments were added at Vaughn Hills, replacing some sections which aren't usable. There's a temporary bridge as part of that. Rebecca will see if there might be some material available in town to build a permanent bridge. Chris will send a materials list to Rebecca.
5. A bridge is needed across Great Brook to get to the Sawyer Grist Mill (access from Rattlesnake; Mill is near 117). There will be a discussion at a Conservation Commission meeting for approval of the bridge. Estimated material needs are 4 4"x6" by 8 feet; the material may be in the shed.
6. The proposed new trail paralleling Corn Road and 495 will be discussed at the November 15 Board of Selectmen meeting, since that property is town (not ConCom) property.

7. Someone contacted Rebecca because they thought there was no sign showing the beginning of the Zink-Northwoods trail. The sign is there, and quite visible, if you know where to look for it. The problem is the trail starts from a private driveway, and it isn't obvious where a sign could be put which is clearly visible from Corn Road. One possibility is that once the new Corn Road trail is put in (previous item), a sign on the east side of Corn Road can point to both trails.

8. There has been a lot of maintenance activity on the properties over the past month. Most has been lead by Jeff Bryan, Larry Kunz and/or Gordon Taylor, with a bunch of other folks helping. Some of the projects (some on-going):
 - a. Bowers Springs invasives cleanup, starting with the parking lot.
 - b. Downed trees in Rattlesnake.
 - c. Culvert cleanup at Bowers
 - d. Downed tress at Gould-White
 - e. Removal of broken "Go Kart" chassis at Rocky Dundee

9. Several people are working to come up with a plan for a new Trails Committee website, probably hosted "under" the Trust website. It's going to take a lot of planning, and then a lot of work.

Next Meeting Monday, December 3, 2018 - Houghton Building
