

Minutes of the December 3, 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, Naomi Martin, Bob Roemer, Julianne North, Hemali Parekh

1. In the absence of a website, the attendees decided to send the meeting minutes to all members of the Steering Group (plus, of course, non-Steering Group attendees), and send an email to the volunteers offering the minutes.
2. The November 30 trail walk at Vaughn Hills was 12 people and 3 dogs. In Rebecca's absence, it was led by Jeff B and Chris. Chris got to show off the new trail segments he and a bunch of volunteers have recently finished; but there is still a temporary bridge.
3. The trail walk included two folks from SVT, who are working on a series of conservation workshops to be held in Bolton. The first will be at the end of January. Topics will include APRs, conservation restrictions, gifts, easements, etc.
4. We talked about whether the next walk should be January 1, restarting a tradition of years past. It was sometimes sponsored by ConCom, sometimes the Trust, and in some cases done jointly with Harvard or Stow. Jeff will look into it and talk to Rebecca.
5. The Board of Selectman approved the Corn Road trail. Jeff B will look into flagging it.
6. DPW has agreed to help move concrete railroad ties (they weigh about 700 pounds each) to the Bowers parking lot in the late spring. Rebecca asked Larry to get written permission from Bolton Orchards to take a few of the ties.
7. The "TADMOR" trail at Wilder will be flagged by Jeff. The developers will actually cut the trail.
8. Rebecca is applying for a MassTrails Grant for an accessibility trail at Bowers Springs.
9. One or two scout projects have been proposed for Annie Moore. The options need to be reviewed, with site visits in the spring.
10. A generator donated by Drew needs some work. Rebecca may have enough money to have it repaired. The brush hog also needs repair; not clear if there's sufficient money to fix it this fiscal year. The DPW will put the brush hog back in the old fire station after it's repaired.
11. Rebecca wants to hold off on bridges planning until next year.
12. After much discussion on the various issue, Steve volunteered to put together a proposal for a new Trails Committee website.

13. Greg is pausing the Boy Scout "All Trails" project for the winter.
14. There are some trees leaning in Rattlesnake. Jeff B and some other volunteers will try to get to them at the end of the week.
15. It was noted that the dog walking rules are not being followed, and apparently most trail users aren't even aware of them. Most folks at the meeting felt a very obvious sign (8½ x 11) should be posted at each of the major trail heads.
16. Jeff B will try to get an inventory of trail guides by contacting Jeff L, Pam and the Trust. We may need to get more printed.
17. Joe Lynch from the DPW is looking into applying for a grant from the state "Complete Streets" program. We believe the it would cover on-road (edge of road) walkways connecting hiking trails.
18. Larry reported on the Bower parking area clearing. There have been 3 work parties so far; more are planned, also covering other areas of the property.
19. The Garrison House has been half cleared as of early this year (or last fall?). We need to schedule another work party, and we think Rebecca, who volunteered to move the brush pile, still needs to do that.

Next Meeting Monday, January 7, 2019 - Houghton Building
