

Minutes of the January 7, 2019 Bolton Trails Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Andrew "Drew" Schaubhut (chair), Steve Rothman (note taker), Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Rebecca Longvall, Larry Kunz, Jeff Bryan, Chris Fitzgerald, Greg Matte, Bob Roemer, Hemali Parekh, Dan Gaffney, Burt Schnitzler

1. Dan Gaffney (Bolton Conservation Trust president) and Bob Roemer started the meeting by reviewing the 4 hours they spent with Jeff Larence, talking about how to move from Jeff's old trails website and maps to the Trust website environment. Just as the Trust website has sections for the Tom Denney Nature Camp and the Four Winds Nature Program, it will have a section for public access properties and their trails. That portion of the website will be created and maintained by Trails Committee volunteers. Dan and Bob will talk to Jeff again, based on the discussions at the January 7 meeting.
2. The meeting spent some time talking about how to move from the current environment, with the maps available on the Conservation Commission portion of the town website, to the Trust website with maps, trails files (KML/GPX), photos, meeting agendas and minutes, etc.
3. Gordon talked about an experiment he set up for a new trails website. Gordon owns the `boltontrails.org` domain; he's using a special \$1/month deal from his ISP to prototype a website, using WordPress (the same environment the Trust uses). You can see what Gordon has done (and continues updating) at <http://boltontrails.org>. Note that this is not (yet) for public use, so please don't pass this around outside the trails volunteers. Send all feedback to Gordon.
4. We hope to be able to transfer `boltontrailscommittee.org` (the domain for the old website) to the Trust. But if there are problems doing that, we will probably switch to `boltontrails.org`, which Gordon will transfer to the Trust.
5. We had yet another discussion about cloud storage for trails data. Bob Roemer has set up a structure in the Trust Dropbox area for trails data. Since only Dropbox users with paid accounts can access the data (due to the limitations of the amount of data which can be accessed from free Dropbox accounts), Bob will set up a couple of the trails volunteers as "admin" Dropbox users, who will then be able to enter and retrieve data for the other trails volunteers.
6. Rebecca and Chris talked about their experiments to use either town GIS data, or Open Street Map data to create maps.
7. Greg talked about his Boy Scout Hiking Project Merit Badge for "All Bolton Trails". He passed around a badge he had created; he's purchased 100 of them. He expects the Boy Scouts will complete their entry into the club this spring. The application form will be on the website.

8. Rebecca had a phenomenally successful New Years Day walk in Rattlesnake– there were 26 attendees. The weather was a major contributor, too– with a temperature of about 50! Thanks to Rebecca and Jeff Bryan, who served as "sweep".
9. Chris and Jeff have a pipe for the new bridge on the new trail at Vaughn Hill.
10. There are some telephone poles laying on the ground at the Common; the should be lifted off the ground and put on some sort of supports to prevent them from rotting (poles are meant to be vertical). Rebecca will ask the DPW to take care of it.
11. The next step for the new trail to the Sawyer Grist Mill site is to get a rock drill out there; that requires a generator. Drew has donated a generator to the town, but it needs some work. Bob R thinks he can probably get it running; Jeff B will deliver it to Bob R's barn.
12. The new trail at Corn Rd has been flagged. There's a lot of trash in the area; some of it "on" the trail. Everyone agreed the best plan is to minimize disturbing the area, so only trash which directly impacts use of the trail will be moved. We're hoping it will be a small enough pile that the DPW can take care of it.
13. Gordon and Betsy will start to flag the existing Trust easement at Haynes Wheeler Trail.
14. Rebecca has just about finished the final "Dogs on Conservation Land" sign; it's going to be presented for approval at the January 15 ConCom meeting.
15. The town brush hog needs a tune up; Rebecca plans to do it either in May/June (current FY) or July (new FY).
16. The first workshop with the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), Bolton Conservation Trust (BCT), Bolton Conservation Commission (BCC) and Bolton Agricultural Committee (AG Com) is set for Saturday, January 26th at 10 am Houghton Building. It's going to cover conservation "success stories"; pie and coffee will be served. The next workshops are tentatively planned for May and August.
17. Larry got an email from Bolton Orchards confirming we can take some of their concrete railroad ties; we plan to use them at the Bowers parking area. DPW will transport them in the spring.
18. The work to clean up the large down tree on the wilder trail is complete for now.
19. After the recent high winds, if individuals are able to assess trails and upload to the online mapping tool OR email that would be much appreciated.

[Steve thanks Drew for doing a lot of these minutes in "real time" during the meeting.]

 Next Meeting Monday, February 4, 2019 - Houghton Building
