

Minutes of the December 7, 2017 Bolton Trails Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Andrew "Drew" Schaubhut (chair), Steve Rothman (note taker), Gordon Taylor, Jeff Bryan, Bob Roemer, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Rebecca Longvall, Greg Matte, Chris Fitzgerald, Julianne North

1. A bike rider broke her collarbone between intersections 2F and 2C in Rattlesnake. The emergency responders had some trouble figuring out how to get their "Gator" ATV to the location— they ended up having to go in at TH2, at the intersection of Sugar Road and Old Sugar Road. The Trails Steering group will work with the Bolton Emergency Departments to provide them with a private map that shows which trails the Gator can use. Rebecca agreed to contact Alex LeBlanc (EMS training coordinator) to arrange a site visit between the appropriate emergency departments folks and the steering group. She will also ask if there are other properties in town for which special maps are needed.
2. Mowing of Butternut and Bowers Springs is done. DPW still has to mow the field at the corner of 110 and 117.
3. The state recommends that brush piles of invasive plants be left to compost "in place", because moving them can cause additional problems. So the Bowers Springs piles will be left. Rebecca will move the pile at the Garrison House to Bowers Springs. Several attendees volunteered to help her.
4. Alice Roemer discovered some folks riding ATVs in Rattlesnake. They had entered through a stone wall from Harris Farms. We decided to take one of the "No Motorized Vehicles" signs in the storage container off its post and nail it to a tree near the stone wall opening (add to projects list). We also discussed putting "Conservation Land Boundary signs" on some of the trees where Rattlesnake and Harris Farms meet (add to projects list).
5. The "No Leaf Blowing" signs in the kiosks apparently haven't been sufficiently obvious, so they will be moved to the trails (add to projects list). A trail in Annie Moore was blown clean.
6. Jeff Larence's proposal for a bridge at Vaughn Hills needs to go to the Conservation Commission. Rebecca have it on their December 19 agenda; they may want to do a site visit before deciding which option to pick.
7. There are some arrows missing at Danforth— one of the trail junctions isn't obvious depending on which direction you're traveling (add to projects list).
8. [The map displayed at the meeting had intersections labels with letters, but the website maps don't show them.] There's a trail [from X to Y] in Vaughn Hills which is not on the map, but a very useful trail for bikers (it eliminates a decline and incline). It's near the

pond. Someone needs to walk it and collect a track (add to projects list) and then the info needs to be given to Jeff Larence to update the map.

9. There a trail at Vaughn Hills [from L to E] which needs maintenance. Chris will work on it.
10. The trail behind the First Parish church now has a sitting area and fire pit. Those amenities need to be added to the map. Greg will send the info to Jeff L. He'll also ask Jeff to add the Fitness Stations at Town Common to the map.
11. There are lots of trail/conservation signs around town which need maintenance; waiting too long will mean they need to be replaced instead of fixed. The first step is to do an inventory of all the signs in town. (add to projects list– one for each property).
12. We had a fairly long discussion about one of the downsides of our success to making our conservation land more visible: Several folks whose property backs up on the Coventry Wood trail in Rattlesnake have reported hikers going through their back yards and down their driveways, and in at least one case, some folks walked up a driveway and through a back yard to get to the trail. Our plan to proceed:
 - a. We will put a sign at intersection 2C which says something like: No Outlet; Private Homes Only. The suggestion was a silk screened sign on aluminum, so it will be very visible and long lasting (add to projects list).
 - b. Another possibility is to take the Coventry Wood trail off the map. That won't help in the short term, since it's in the books and the online maps (needs more discussion).
 - c. We also talked about putting up some road signs: at each end of Coventry Wood Road where it meets Sugar Road, put up a sign which says something like "No Access to Rattlesnake Conservation Area", and at the Sugar Road/Old Sugar Road intersection, and the Sugar Road/Harris Farm Road intersection, put up signs which say 'Rattlesnake Conservation Area" with arrows pointing in the appropriate direction. If we want to proceed with this, the first step is probably discussions with the police and DPW.
13. Drew mentioned the site visit that he, Bob, Steve and Larry took to the Sawyer sawmill foundation. The original goal was to find a way to come out to 117 near Slaters. However, there's no practical way to get to 117 from the conservation property– the only way would be a short distance through the old Skinner property (now Environmental Pools) to the end of their driveway. We decided this project should be split into two phases:
 - a. Get a trail cleared and marked to the sawmill foundation. There's a crossing of Great Brook needed, but that doesn't appear to be a big project.
 - b. Get access out to 117 across the old Skinner land. Rebecca is going to look into the legal status of the sale as a first step.
14. The trail signs at Annie Moore to 117 are missing– people are guessing that the new owners of the Atlantic Microwave property may have taken them down. That trail has

been in use for many decades. It not clear to me (Steve, as minute taker), what the next step is.

15. We had a discussion about showing on the map a trail which goes across private property at Annie Moore (connecting two of the red X's). It would be a low priority project (add to projects list).
16. We talked about putting up "Conservation Boundary" markers at Annie Moore along the Bolton/Stow town line (add to project list, low priority).
17. The trail at Randall-Vinger that starts on Berlin Road and goes through the opening in the stone wall and across the field isn't marked (on the ground) (add to projects list, low priority).
18. There's additional conservation land near Fyfeshire. The current map doesn't cover that area. And there's an easement the Trust owns which connects the two properties. There are several projects needed to make this available:
 - a. Change the map to cover the area including the additional conservation land.
 - b. Walk the existing trails (if any) and determine if new trails are needed.
 - c. Create signs, including for the easement.
19. After the regular meeting was over, Jeff Bryan noted that the Conservation Commission is considering "Rules of Conduct" for walking dogs on town owned Conservation Land. It turns out Stow recently put a set of rules in place, causing some (professional) dog walkers to walk their dog packs in Bolton. Jeff and the ConComm are looking for feedback. If you'd like to see the proposal, it's here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B99sEXRhNy--cHJSdkwtbzJNRWo4WmdvUmxkSndPa3VXV0Vv/view?usp=sharing_eil&ts=5a2fe6e3