



Bolton Trails Committee Meeting

October 19th, 2016

Notes added by JML on 10.20

Properties Overview

1. **Bolton Flats** – No updates.

2. **Vaughn Hills**– Easement location between conservation land and Trust owned “Harris” parcel needs to be GPS tracked. Group needs to determine if existing trail can be relocated to the easement. Daniel Ickes Eagle Scout project proposal is approved for Moen parking lot improvements, a kiosk, trail signs, one bridge, and 6-8 wooden replacement signs. The DPW has committed to modify the lot entrance. Three new bridges are installed as of 10.10.16. Kiosk design is complete for review – position at trail head TBD. Will discuss including maps, compasses, and new signs at this kiosk location. **Julianne let us know a tree is down cross trail between junctions W & V.**

3. **Bowers Springs**– GPS file completed and posted to the website for download on 10.10. Jim Henderson starting field mowing on 10.12 to be completed this week.

4. **Powder House Hill** – As of 10.18, the new trail segment to Quail Run is complete. Drew suggested we relocate the ecology sign trail side and install a “left arrow” marker at the private trail intersection mid property. Parking symbol will be added to the plan when the trail is complete. Betsy will look into a carved ground mount property sign. Jeff can make a trail head sign if necessary. An updated GPS file for this property and Town Common completed and posted to the website for download on 10.18. **Julianne let us know a tree is down cross trail between junctions H&G and near B. Gordon suggested the Trust owned lot #42 be included as shaded green in this map.**

5. **Zink-Northwoods** – Group reviewed the GIS map with the GPS trail routes. Jeff and/or Betsy to review the development plan to confirm any C/R areas associated with the Houghton Farm residential development project. **There is a tree down on the private trail between Laurel and junction E. Jeff forwarded the town owned open space information for Houghton Farm to the group.**

6. **Rattlesnake Hill** – Julianne suggested we have a plan to address potential gas powered leaf blowing of trails this fall. There are concerns with erosion and unnecessary trail widening. Signs will be posted in October, Jeff has example for review. Bolton EMT conducted the first ever search and rescue using the GPS trail files in the property on 9.24 under the cover of darkness.

7. **Delaney** – Greg & Jeff walked Delaney on 10.12 as part of the trail measurement project. New location photos were taken and minor updates to the map have been implemented. **Julianne discussed a trail south from near the tower to Delaney Street. She will forward the GPS capture and Jeff will identify property ownership.**

8. **Annie Moore** – Greg walked the site week of 10.3 with a chainsaw and cleared multiple cross trail fall downs. GPS file for this property is in progress. **The group discussed the trail from the end of Old Bolton Road. Jeff will see if any easement information exists on line or in town hall. The main trail segment from Bolton/Stow Junction to the end of Annie Moore road is actually on a public access way.**

9. Danforth – The loop trail east of the gas pipeline easement up to Barrett’s Hill peak needs markers installed. Drew found a numeric correction in the scale bar on the Danforth map, correction made. Keith suggested a “spur” trail to the peak of Barrett’s Hill. **Drew walked this loop and could not find the trail.**

10. Randall-Vinger – No updates at this time. **Group discussed adding several trail markers on posts to identify the trail location from H to F. The map will be updated to show a trail connection between F & E by moving photo key #3.**

11. Gould-White Property – Property needs trail markers. Drew suggested a wooden “PARKING” sign at the single car area close to the trail head.

12. Welch Pond – Grass clippings dumped on 9.18. Jeff created a “No Dumping” sign to be installed on a stake mid trail off the parking area. Gordon installed a stake with the sign at the trail head (mid trail) on .23. Doug from Assabet Bicycle has had a friendly conversation with Eric S regarding the extension of a trail across his property to Sawyer Road. The Schartners are worried that the release of their property to continue the trail for Welch Pond might allow the neighboring farm to develop the adjacent 20 acre lot. Following this concern, it was explained that the trail would not impact land ownership or use. Further conversations are required.

13. Bolton Overlook – No updates at this time.

14. Wilder Pond – TC to schedule a site visit for future bridge location with David Russel.

15. Fyfeshire – Doug from Assabet Bicycles has had friendly conversation with Eric S regarding the trail location at West Berlin. The TC needs to schedule a site visit to locate and mark this segment. **Jeff has created a GPS trail and parcel file for this segment. A group will visit the site week of 10.24.**

16. Bolton Loop Trail – A “Master” GPS trail file is being developed.

Other TC Items

1. Town Maps – Property maps are completed. The first 150 copies of our 2016 Bolton Trails Guide have been finished.

2. Inventory Spreadsheet – track materials in storage container and use within properties (on going). The spreadsheet was updated on 6.3 when materials are delivered.

3. Microsoft One Drive – store all photos, documents, meeting agendas into this folder (on going).

4. Next TC Meeting – is scheduled for November 16th in the Houghton building at 6:30PM

5. Trail Distances – a “next step” map project of walking and recording main trail segments using a distance measuring wheel. Greg has completed multiple property surveys having developed a spreadsheet tracking system. Greg presented the project specifics and status. Two levels of survey distance maps will be developed. One will have the letter junctions for every segment for TC use, and the other will use “pins” and distance centered on the segment for public use. Greg will continue his documented process over the summer, as time permits. Jeff will update the maps as necessary. **Greg presented the project and discussed best ways to implement this new data into the maps. The group discussed ways to involve the community as part of a contest to guess the number of miles of trails in Bolton.**

6. Rick Merrill (Coventry Wood Rd) – Rick could use some help clearing the rest of the fall down that landed on the stone wall and across the trail leading from Old Sugar. We cleared this last season, but a 30’ portion on his property is obstructing the stream.

7. TC Dinner Al Fresco –This event was held on September 24th and was a great success. Thank You to Larry, Gordon & Betsy, and Jeff & Martha for making this dinner a reality. Also thank you to Theresa (Ness Farm) for donating heritage pork and chicken in support of this fundraiser. Steve & Millie can provide table-side details.

8. Map Downloads – tracking software was installed behind each PDF map file to log several data points including number of times download. To date, the maps have been downloaded over 1044 times and the GPS files 260 times. 27 pages of download log data have been recorded to date.

9. Harvard Conservation Trust Maps – Jeff was contacted by Marc Sevigny of the HCT on 9.13 regarding our new maps. They would like to produce maps similar to ours. Jeff met with Marc on 9.30 and reviewed the process.

10. 2017 Trails Guide – The 2017 edition of The Bolton Trails Guide is in the development stage. Updates to several maps, new photographs, a new cover design, and a plant identification insert are all planned for next year's publication.

11. Stow Conservation Property Maps – Jeff was contacted by Kathy Sferra of Stow Conservation regarding our new maps. Jeff met with Kathy, Jacquie, and Valerie on 10.14 and reviewed the process.

12. NH Mountain Hiking Link – The website plugin for backlinks has identified a new link to the Rattlesnake property map page found at [NH Mountain Hiking](#).

13. GPS File Format Update – following our review meeting with the Bolton Ambulance Squad on 10.5, several updates to the GPS files were made. They include custom way point icons, change in color for secondary trails, GPS coordinate data at each trail head marker, and file export format from KMZ to KML.

14. Rebecca Longvall – started on 10.11 as the new Conservation Administrator for the town of Bolton.

15. Property Maintenance Lists – Larry suggested we start a record of typical yearly maintenance required at each of the properties. This might include trail segment locations and the equipment needed.