



Bolton Trails Committee Meeting

March 15th, 2017

Notes added in red by JML on 3.16.16

Off-Season Items

Welcome back to the scheduled Trails Committee meetings for 2017! Although we were not holding official meetings, the off-season did bring some new and exciting changes and additions.

1. Rebecca Longvall – Bolton has a new, energetic, and outdoor minded Conservation Agent! *Rebecca gave the group an overview of her role, background, interests and goals.*

2. BoltonTrailsCommittee.org – The TC has a new website launched in January to showcase our group, mission, and accomplishments. Key contributors now have access to create and maintain content. The site is 100% paid for by sales of the Bolton Trails Guide with the help of Pam Powell at town hall. *Anyone interested in becoming a content contributor, please contact Jeff for site access. The group discussed the benefits of the site, favorite components, and site statistics.*

3. Land Steward – A new position created by Jeff and Rebecca, approved by Don Lowe and the Commission, and appointed by the Board of Selectman on 1.26. The description and responsibilities are posted to our website on the “Announcements” page. *Jeff gave a quick overview of this new role.*

4. Trail Signage Manual – The SOP detailing signage specifications and installations was updated on 2.23.17 from the previous revision in 2003. Digital copies are available on request. *The group reviewed this new document now available for download on the TC website.*

5. Chainsaw Safety Guidelines & Certification – The TC, CA, and Trust are working on a new set of guidelines focused on safety, accountability, and responsibility when operating a chainsaw on public land in Bolton. This document is in the development stages and will be discussed in more detail. A local in-field safety class opportunity is in the works. Several suggestions were made regarding trail clearing expectations with discussions around specific examples. The safety class is scheduled to take place on April 1st.

6. Trail Cutting & Clearing Manual - *will be developed to address best practices in clearing existing trails and establishing new ones. This document will also include safety guidelines for hand tools.*

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. Several wooden trail signs need replacing. The locations and content of these are TBD. The DPW did work both on Vaughn Hill road (washouts) and in the Moen parking lot. The rutted areas of the lot have been filled and compacted with coarse crushed stone.

3. Bowers Springs– Lots of beaver activity in the center pond with the water level down several feet in the west pond. One cross trail fall down exists near photo key 2. A new doggy bag dispenser unit for this property is coming soon. **Rebecca stated that the dispenser was ordered and delivered.**

4. Powder House Hill – An proposed Eagle Scout project will better define the trails across Lot #44 owned by First Baptist Church. These segments connect Powder House with Town Common.

5. Zink-Northwoods – Trails leading northbound from Northwoods across the Hazel private property had yellow triangular markers removed on 3.2. **Winslow identified a cross trail fall down near the Corn Road entrance to Zink with a second further along the trail.**

6. Rattlesnake – No updates.

7. Delaney – Greg provided several trail segment detailed updates specific to junctions and intersections. This property map was updated on 2.14 with a new revision date of 2.2017.

8. Annie Moore – The loop extension project is approved as currently GPS tracked and will be a high priority project this spring.

9. Danforth – The loop trail east of the gas pipeline easement up to Barrett’s Hill peak needs markers installed.

10. Randall-Vinger – Group discussed adding several trail markers on posts to identify the trail location from H to F. A survey of this area may be required given the tight proximity to private land. One fall down exists as shown in the Stewardship Blog. **Gordon found two more on 3.13.**

11. Gould-White Property – Property needs trail markers. Drew suggested a wooden “PARKING” sign at the single car area close to the trail head. **Gordon identified a cross trail fall down near Sawyer Rd and an automotive tire off the rim a far distance from Randall road on the White property.**

12. Welch Pond – We are still exploring 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. A new residential subdivision is planned for Lot #3 adjacent to Wilder Pond. Over 4 acres of new open space will be created, capturing the trail and bridge that we not part of the conservation parcel.

15. Fyfeshire – The correct trail easement location across Schartner’s parcel was surveyed and flagged on 10.26, mapped and reviewed by Schartner. Initial trail clearing started on 10.7 with the trail completed to 25%. Completion of this project is a high priority this spring.

Other TC Items

1. Town Maps – Property maps are completed, updates ongoing as required.

2. Inventory Spreadsheet – On going. Material estimates for 2017 will be completed in April.

3. Microsoft One Drive – storage for photos, and historical documents (on going).

4. Next TC Meeting – **is scheduled for the week of April 12th.**

5. Trail Distances – Complete. Maps include all junctions coordinated with the master distance spreadsheet. Implementation for public consumption is still under consideration. **The group discussed**

possible implementation options. In the maps might include a key with junction references or along the trail segment line between two “pins”. Having loop trail walks identified with both time and distance data was discussed. Installing this data in the KML files was suggested.

6. 2017 Trails Guide – The 2017 edition of The Bolton Trails Guide is published. Two versions were developed for 2017. One “Trust” version is available for free to members, and one “TC” version is for sale at Town Hall for \$10. The guide received a 2017 grant from our Bolton Cultural Council!

7. Logo Patches – all new for 2017 are the 2.5” PVC Velcro-backed Bolton Trails Committee logo patches. The first order for 25 should deliver the first week of April. [More info to follow.](#)