

# Trails Committee meeting –June 22nd, 2016

Meeting notes added on 6.23 by JML

The TC welcomes Drew to his first meeting!

## Properties Overview

1. **Bolton Flats** – No updates

2. **Vaughn Hills**– The new “horse trail” needs trail markers. 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. Map updated with input from Susan Jones. Daniel Ickes Eagle Scout project proposal is finished and signed including Moen parking lot improvements, a kiosk, trail signs, one bridge, and 6-8 wooden replacement signs. Lowes donated materials being forwarded to scout projects in this property. Girl scouts to replace three bridges during this summer.

3. **Bowers Springs**– Bridge complete, beaver wire might be required to protect existing trees. Signs from Bower main trail “to Bare Hill/Vaughn Hills” and from Bare Hill and Vaughn “to Bower Springs” required. A very wet area at bridge location 3 on route to the new bridge needs duckboards. There’s also a large fall down across this area of the trail. Map was updated on 6.13 with input from Greg. QR signs updated and re-installed at three locations in this property. **Larry suggested we provide 6 laminated property trail maps at the kiosk. Mowing the meadows at Bowers and Butternut was also discussed.**

4. **Powderhouse Hill** – Trail section from Quail Run is in poor condition - needing markers and clearing.

5. **Zink-Northwoods** – Possible trail link from Houghton Farm to Northwoods. Group will explore.

6. **Rattlesnake Hill** –The junction signs are complete and ready to install. Group needs to determine the install date. We were thinking a work party over a weekend. Install with a single stainless steel screw. **Jeff, Martha, Steve, Millie, and Larry plan to install several junction signs on 6.25.**

7. **Delaney** – Group to review possible access point and trail from East End Road at some point.

8. **Annie Moore** – Greg may have additional property updates. **A secondary loop and 100’ of trail needs new markers installed.**

9. **Randall-Vinger** – An “unmarked trail” segment was installed in the map connecting the Quaker Park to the Fry Burial Grounds. Steve & Millie have captured three private trail locations that are now included in the map. Group to review and schedule field visit to remove and reinstall trail markers.

10. **Gould-White Property** – Property needs trail markers & multiple signs. Scott has seen a few tree falls. The new “Basin Loop” and “Brendan RidgeTrail” signs were installed on Friday 5.27.

11. **Welch Pond** – Three signs are required at the intersection near the condos pointing to Welch Pond, Wattaquodock Hill, and W.Berlin Road. An overgrown trail section needs clearing. The segment between WH and the intersection at the field needs work from fallen trees and missing markers. Gordon cleared the parking area this week. Larry, Gordon & Jeff conducted a site visit on 6.14 and determined significant clearing is required. The DR machine and string trimmers are necessary. **Jeff and Gordon plan to clear this overgrown trail section on 6.23.**

12. **Wilder Pond** – ConCom and the TC have reviewed the current map with David Russel. The team needs to conduct a site visit for a possible bridge crossing location and connection to Wilder Road. **Larry and Jeff cleared the parking lot and main trail entrance on 6.22.**

13. **Fyfeshire** – Contact Eric S. to discuss relocating the W. Berlin trail entrance. Friends of Fyfeshire are proposing a renovation project to the stone entrance.

14. **Bolton Loop Trail** – no updates

**15. Danforth** – Greg walked Danforth the week of 6.6. **The loop trail east of the gas pipeline easement up to Barretts Hill peak needs markers installed.**

## **Other TC Items**

**1. Town Maps** – Property maps are completed. The first 100 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 July 20th 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.**

**6. Meeting Chair Cycle** – Jeff is suggesting the group alternates running Trails Committee meetings. Anyone interested in signing up for a month, please let us know.

**7. GIS & GPS Data** – Jeff met with Gary to review in detail the map build process as it relates to GPX files and track data. It will be up to Gary if a project involving updates to the town GIS map moves forward. Karen suggested we investigate the “Open Trails Data” community to code trail segments with specific information. Link here - <http://www.opentraildata.org/>

**8. Town Property Budget** – The 2016 season budget was submitted on 4.7 and approved by ConCom. All material ordered was delivered on 6.3 and was loaded into the container.

**9. 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.

**10. GPX/KML Files** – Steve has drafted a written process for compiling multiple GPS captures into a single “cleaned-up” GPS property file. Waypoints would be included, but may be edited for trail user. These files will be posted to the TC website for users to install on their devices as background map trail data. **Jeff installed new Wordpress software allowing for KML/XML files. Rattlesnake and Vaughn Hill GPS files with waypoints are now available on the website. Gordon suggested we review the map examples on “ridewithgps.com” Karen and Steve discussed file format. Jeff would like feedback on the files posted currently.**

**11. Lowe’s Donation** – Lowes of Hudson donated and delivered 11-16’ and 3-20’ sections of Beach House Gray composite decking material on 6.14. **Material will support Scout achievement projects.**

**12. Town Trail Maps Website** – The Town of Bolton website has been updated to reflect the current trail map organization with our Key Map numbering system. Map links for all the properties are active.

**13. QR Code Signs** – on May 27<sup>th</sup> Steve, Jeff, Gordon, and Gordon visited every town owned conservation property installing a total of 21 property specific QR Digital Map signs.

**14. Website Donation Sidebar** – which is visible to the right hand side of all our Trails Committee website pages has been updated to include more specific and useful information and program links.

**15. Newspaper Article** – the mapping project was showcased through an article written by Nan Schnitzler published in the Bolton Independent on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**16. TC Dinner Al Fresco** – a few TC Members are hosting an outdoor dinner at Bowers Springs in September as part of the Trust Gala fundraising event. A guided property walk including customized

Trail Guides will be given to the six winning bidders prior to this outdoor dinner. Local meat, produce, and drinks will be prepared on site and served in a pond-side, open-dining outdoor experience. Anyone interested in helping the team during this event can speak with Larry, Jeff, Gordon, and Greg.

**17. 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 600 times! **660 down loads as of 6.23.**

**18. QR Code Tutorial** – A new page under the TC header menu was developed providing a step-by-step tutorial on how to use the new trailhead QR Digital Map signs. Tom Denney camp kids to learn how.

**19. Action Item List** – Larry suggested we develop a “to-do” list for internal use. This would allow Trail Committee volunteers to see what projects are available.