



Bolton Trails Committee Meeting

September 21st, 2016

Minutes added by JML on 9.23.16

Properties Overview

- 1. Bolton Flats** – Several location photos were retaken on 9.20 for the 2017 guide book.
- 2. Vaughn Hills**– The new “horse trail” needs trail markers – to be installed by Daniel Ickes. 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. Lowes donated materials being forwarded to scout projects in this property. Girl scouts to replace three bridges during this summer. The DPW has committed to modify the lot entrance. Greg noted a large cross trail fall down at the southern entrance to the “horse trail.” Susan provided photos of a fall down over the trail along the Northwest section of the pond loop. Jeff cleared two fall downs and posted “entering private property” signs on 8.26. 4-16’ stringers were delivered to the Moen parking lot on 9.19 for projects starting Sunday the 25th.
- 3. Bowers Springs**– Three laminated property signs installed on June 29th. Jeff chain sawed a cross trail fall down on July 19th. Trail between Bowers and Bare Hill walked with the Zayka family on July 22nd. “Entering Private Property” signs were requested and installed on both ends of the trail on July 23rd. Three new duckboard style bridges were provided along this route by Tom Denney Camp. The TC visited the property last week of July to make install improvements. Jim Henderson has submitted a proposal to meadow mow this September. Keith suggested we survey to determine if wire tree wraps are necessary to prevent beaver activity from damaging the bridge or impeding the trail.
- 4. Powderhouse Hill** – Trail section from Quail Run is in poor condition - needing markers and clearing. Jeff & Drew scouted this section using GPS on 9.11. Gordon, Betsy, Jeff, and Keith flagged the trail and started marking and clearing on 8.14. The new trail location is flagged 100% and cut/marked to 35% from Quail Run. Steve & Millie continued work on 9.17 and Drew cleared more new trail on 9.20. **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.**
- 5. Zink-Northwoods** – Possible trail link from Houghton Farm to Northwoods. Group will explore. Drew & Greg have captured GPS data on trails between Houghton Farm and the Zink easement. Jeff completed a GIS overlay to determine parcel specifics and review easement information. Several private property parcels as well as New England Power Company. **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.**
- 6. Rattlesnake Hill** –All junction signs are complete and installed. GPS file is finished and posted to the website. Greg, Bob and Jeff chain sawed a huge cross trail fall down on RS Hill Trail on July 9th. Two

new wooden signs (a caution sign at the quarry and a directional sign to Old Sugar cul-de-sac) were installed on August 3rd. The annual CR monitoring walk was held on August 30th at 10am. **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.**

7. Delaney – GPS file completed and posted to the website on July 25th

8. Annie Moore – Greg may have additional property updates. A secondary loop and 100' of trail needs new markers installed. Greg conducted brush and trail overgrowth clearing along several sections in AM last week. There are three cross trail fall downs on property; one near Bolton Woods Way (Greg) and two near Annie Moore Rd (Chris & Erin).

9. Randall-Vinger – Jeff and Gordon visited this property on August 1st to open the trail from Randall Road to the duck board bridge. Additional trail markers were installed. Greg noted the trail segment heading north from photo #3 is overgrown and needs clearing. Scott and his son mowed this section on 8.27 starting from the trail head at the shared driveway to the left hand turn up hill toward Randall Road.

10. Gould-White Property – Property needs trail markers. Gordon and Jeff visited the property on August 1st where Gordon chain sawed a cross trail fall down. Scott cleared a cross trail fall down on August 20th. Greg suggested we add an arrow marker to the ConCom sign pointing to the Brendan Ridge trail head and also directional arrows and private property signage at the 3-way intersection north of the filtered forest. **Drew suggested a wooden “PARKING” sign at the single car area close to the trail head.**

11. Welch Pond – Three new wood directional signs were installed at the intersection near the condos pointing to Welch Pond, Wattaquodock Hill, and W.Berlin Road on August 3rd by Gordon and Jeff. String trimmer clearing and trail marker installs also took place. 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 will install.**

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 Barrett’s Hill peak needs markers installed. **Drew found a numeric correction in the scale bar on the Danforth map. Keith suggested a “spur” trail to the peak of Barrett’s Hill.**

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 October 19th 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 and Jeff discussed ways to involve the community as part of a contest to guess the number of miles of trails in

Bolton. Specifics TBD. Greg has provided measurements for the last two properties; Vaughn Hills and Rattlesnake. Jeff to finish updating the maps and meet with Greg on 9.26.

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 – 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. This event is scheduled for September 24th.

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 918 times and the GPS files 175 times.

9. TC in Action 2016 – Two new pages in the Trails Committee menu were created for “TC in Action” property photos. There is a 2016 current year section and a 2015 sub-menu page for last year’s photos. We will plan to create a 2017 page for next season.

10. Seeclickfix.com – Susan had suggested the TC review this website for ways the trail users might communicate property needs. <https://gov.seeclickfix.com/>

11. Town Common Work Party – The Trails Committee helped clear perimeter brush and invasive undergrowth around Town Common on August 28th. Thank you to Winslow, Betsy & Gordon, Larry, and Gordon W.

12. 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.

13. 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.