

Trail committee meeting – December 8, 2015

Meeting Notes Added by JML 12.9.15

Properties Overview

1. **Gould/White Property** – Group discussed adding a vertical “toe kick” to the approach end our new bridge. Gordon and Jeff discussed creating a GPS track for this property. Need to determine which trails are main and secondary. Walking trip on property required. Yes to adding toe kick- install TBD. Group needs to walk property with the existing maps and create a new GPS track identifying primary and secondary trails. **Team to schedule walk after Gordon and Besty return. Scott suggested we look at the “Warren” and “Taylor” properties at that time. Larry discussed trail heads located away from property signs. Team to review on site and address with additional markers or relocation.**

2. **Rocky Dundee/Vinger** – Gordon and Jeff installed trail head signs on Randall Road and the trail access point off Berlin Road on 10.30. There’s a large fall down across trail needing clearing. We created a GPS track for this property but also need to walk the trail area behind the cemetery. Additional trail markers were installed. New map property name TBD – maybe Vinger –Venable (Trust Owned) with a Randall Road (ConComTown owned) reference. The new map would include both property trails. Scott D cleared fall down. Group needs to walk and map area including and behind the cemetery. **Walk to be scheduled.**

3. **Bower Springs to Bare Hill** – The bridge adjacent to the main ES bridge project will be repurposed along the re-routed trail after construction completion. Duckboards near the trail entrance from Bower also need replacing. Bob and John have cut all deck boards, moved culverts from site to their property and started assembling the sections. Need to finish material prep and schedule trailer move and install. **Jeff to follow up with John and Bob.**

Signs from Bower main trail “to Bare Hill/Vaughn Hills” and from Bare Hill and Vaughn “to Bower Springs” required. Group to get approval from easement landowner to Vaughn Hills and determine placement before Jeff makes signs with directional arrows. Should plan to discuss signage placement with the land owner. **Follow up with Betsy to contact land owner.**

4. **Rattlesnake Hill** – Property needs to be GPS tracked and mapped with a focus on defining sub-loops and secondary trail segments. Steve discussed additional unmarked/unmapped trails created by bikers. **Team to determine how to include these new segments into the property data. Steve and Mille have multiple GPS tracks completed. Group to determine trail colors and naming. Greg suggested we name the main intersections and provide direction to them as implemented in Annie Moore. Walk TBD.**

5. **Vaughn Hills**– Several smaller bridges will replaced next year with materials ordered April 2016. Girl Scout Troop planning involvement for those projects.

A new horse trail was cut by abutters and flagged. It appears this trail circumvents a steep grade on the existing trail. Would need to be marked to spec and mapped. Group discussed clearing the new trail and marking per TC spec. Signage might read “horse trail only” since no bridges exist. **Trail needs to be marked and mapped. Note on plan will be required for no horses on footbridges.**

6. **Moен Property** – Seasonal bypass trail off Moen parking lot cleared, marked and signed. Parking lot erosion issue TBD – DPW involvement required. Parking lot sign made and installed. The trail leftmost form parking lot has a No Trespassing sign. Need to determine if this trail segment is viable.

7. **Bolton Loop Trail** – discuss existing and proposed trail network and go forward action items. Potential Eagle Scout projects go forward. Need to discuss next steps and which sections are candidates. TC discussed parceling sections as ES projects. Conversation regarding colored trail markers and “reserving” a color for the BLT. Certain areas will require directional arrows in addition to the apple markers.

8. **Annie Moore** – GPS track completed included a new secondary loop. Two bridge deck boards replaced. Nine new trail signs installed. Property is 80% marked. Follow up trip to finish TBD. Walk scheduled for 12.10.15. Jeff to cut remaining markers required.

9. **Zinc Property** – Property was walked, GPS tracked and mapped. New trail head sign is made and installed. Entrance cleared. Questions around side trails and private property need to be discussed. Trail easement with surrounding private property in Zinc. Group discussed adding these trails to the map with a note or symbol for private property stay on main trail. Jeff will update map and send for review.

10. **Welch Pond** – Gordon and Jeff walked, marked and created a GPS track for this property on 10.21. The map is completed as well. Three signs are required at the intersection near the condos pointing to Welch Pond, Wataquodock Hill, and W.Berlin Road. An overgrown trail section needs clearing. Jeff will make these signs and schedule install.

11. **Wilder Pond** - TC cleared trail head parking area and main trail on 9.14. This property was severely over grown. Chainsaw work completed that week as well. A new property sign off 117 at parking area installed by Mike Miller. Trail head sign completed but needs install off Wilder Road. A bridge is required to connect trail sections at this property. Materials should be estimated and ordered April 2016. Walk scheduled for 12.10 to GPS map Wilder and measure bridge for materials.

12. **Fyfeshire** - Group discussed waiting to contact Eric Schartner until November once the busy Fall season farm business is past. A GPS track is complete as well as the map. Michele and Jeff discussed replacing the overhead entrance sign and re-painting the metal frame behind it. Group to contact Eric in December to discuss relocating the W. Berlin trail entrance.

13. **Overlook Trail** – Larry requested we add this property to the agenda. Group to schedule a walk to capture GPS Tracks, review existing trail conditions and marker age/spec/placement.

Other TC Items

1. **Town Maps** –Mapping meeting will be scheduled to finalize the go-forward format, implementation, and updating the ConCom website to include new PDF property maps. Focus on completing maps for properties not already on the town website. Meeting TBD when Gordon and Besty are available.

2. **Inventory Spreadsheet** – track materials in storage container and use within properties (on going).

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

4. **Next TC Meeting** - scheduled for 3.15.16 in the Library Program Room from 6:30-8pm

5. **Organize Storage Container** – build loft, order shelving, keep materials stacked neatly. Ideally this should happen before new season materials are ordered in April 2016. Group to schedule container work party. Will discuss relocating non ConCom/TC items to alternate location.

6. **TC Walks** – discussed scheduling member walks with the goal of touching every trail inside each property. Minor trail work would take place during these hikes. Larger scope projects would be identified and scheduled. Possible walks every or every other week. GPS tracks should also be captured during these walks.

7. **Trail Committee Party** – Thank you Larry and Maureen! Great hosts and a fun evening.

8. **Trex Decking** – The current price for one 12' length of "Gravel Path" deck from Koopmans Lumber is \$45.76. Each 12' board yields 2 linear feet of bridge walking surface. The team is discussing the possibility of purchasing a house brand composite deck product by ChoiceDek in "Beach House Gray" from Lowes for less than half the money. This substitution would reduce our cost per linear foot from \$28 to \$15. Samples of old trex, new trex, and Lowes composite to be reviewed at 12.8.15 TC meeting. Samples review a top a 3' stringer section. The Lowes product has slightly more "flex" in the middle but

was not screwed down. Group agreed to procure the Lowes material and build a few bridges to see how the assembled structure performs.

9. **Colored Trail Markers** – Hoping to inventory several colors of Gordon’s design trail markers to differentiate primary and secondary trails. Jeff has samples and pricing for team review. Green markers were installed at Annie Moore, but the group feels the color is not visible enough. Larry and Jeff tested five new colors and found that light blue is best. Group to review new samples at 12.8 TC meeting. Group reviewed and discussed. Scott suggested a separate colored mark added independent of the yellow triangle. Would make adding color to older style marked trails easier. However, having the color inside the marker reduces number of nails (cost and tree impact). Also focuses the trail users attention on the triangle – the primary wayfinding symbol.

10. **Properties at Risk** – starting an agenda item for Conservation properties that need administrative attention. Scott identified properties associated with “Warren” and “Taylor”. Jeff to follow up for more information and detail. Walk TBD during Gould/White property outing.

11. **Do Not Cut Trails Sign** – Group discussed the need for a property sign reinforcing that new trails should not be created without written approval. A sign was made and distributed. New signs installed at Old Sugar, Bob Horton entrance. Need key for Bower Springs kiosk for posting. New sign saved to OneDrive folder.

12. **GPS Phone Accuracy** - Steve, Millie, Larry, and Jeff walked Harris Farm to Coventry Wood to test multiple phones/apps capturing GPS tracks. Four tracks were created using individual phones running several capture applications. The four GPX files were “layered” on top of each other in Googlemaps to find accuracy more than acceptable. Group to publish hardware standards and application settings for phones used to create GPX files. Steve discussed that phones no older than three years will have the necessary GPS hardware and OS to provide acceptable accuracy. Group agreed the test confirmed anyone can capture reasonable accurate track data for map development.

13. **Trail Marker Materials** – Wendy volunteered to “pre-cut” the triangle markers during the winter months. Jeff to follow up. Craig is looking into a possible resource for additional yellow markers to restock our static inventory.

14. **Property Mowing** – Group discussed the need for mowing at Bower Springs and Butternut (possible other areas as well). These meadows were not cut this year. Group voiced concerns around forest growth overtaking the meadow environment if not maintained. Questions regarding outsourcing the mowing to private contractors or engaging the DPW to use Town equipment. The team agreed that field mowing is not a Trail Committee responsibility. Karen to follow up with Michele and the Conservation Commission.

15. **Materials Budget** – Team to compile material list required for 2016 season. Replacement bridges in Vaughn Hills and a new culvert bridge in Wilder Pond required. Common building materials assigned to Bower Springs also need replenishment. The team is planning to order materials by April with invoices submitted by May. Container needs to be organized before new materials arrive. Karen and Jeff to follow up to determine the budget number.