

# Trail committee meeting – September 8th 2015

Meeting notes added in red by JML on 9.9.15

**Welcome Wendy and Craig Swinehart to the TC!**

## Properties Overview

1. **White Property** – New bridge footing completed. Photos posted to TC cloud folder. Larry stated that there's a half step on the bridge entrance that may need a filler. **Group discussed adding a vertical "toe kick" to the approach end of the bridge, similar to Rocky Dundee.**

2. **Rocky Dundee** – Need a trail entrance sign installed and the team to section walk to confirm trail markers are complete. The group discussed the need for trail head signs at this location to "finish" the work. Possibility to repurpose the brown signs and posts inside the container by adding a trail specific placard under the wooden sign topper. Also discussed the typical trail head sign spec, and how the TC might have these made in the future. **Betsy will reach out to Bob Johnson regarding fabrication of additional trail head signs. TC group to visit the container and pull one of the brown sign posts for dimensions and photos. Other trail head sign options TBD.**

3. **Bower Springs to Bare Hill** – Updates. Larry and Jeff relocated the three bridges and re-routed the trail into a more finalized configuration. The bridge adjacent to the main ES bridge project will be repurposed along the re-routed trail after construction completion. **Additional trail clearing still required.**

John Czekanski notified the TC on 8.31 that all ES paperwork was submitted to the council. Approval should a week or two. He'll keep us posted with new developments. **TBD. Jeff will follow up with John next week.**

Additional materials are required to construct the proposed bridge. Trex decking as well as a new 36" dia culvert section. Group needs to identify if these materials are paid for by the Town or ES fundraising **TBD. Jeff will follow up with John.**

A bridge out and trail under construction sign is needed. The list of materials required to complete duck board work needs to be compared to our existing stores. TC needs to brush cut trail with string trimmers. Possible relocation of existing Roemer bridge once ES project is complete.

- a. John and Bob to confirm the BSA approves this project to go-forward. Design is 90%. Additional materials required. TC to hand-off construction and focus upstream.
- b. Replace duck-board walks near entry – do we have the required materials? **Group to revisit trail site and existing material list to determine if additional building materials are required. Work should be completed prior to ES project completion.**

4. **Rattlesnake Hill** – Besty, Gordon & Jeff conducted chainsaw clearing at the Old Sugar Road entrance last week on Karen's request. Karen has voiced that sections inside RH need better trail markers. Too easy to get lost, no "you are here" orientation. Group agrees signage work required. Too easy to get lost, and not know where you are on the map in certain locations.

5. **Vaughn Hills**– finish mapping and color coding of trails, publish new maps, update trail markers and signage. Discussed this project goes along with Moen. Need to finish the trail markers and mapping here.

- a. Renaming the Beaver Loop Trail in Vaughn Hill to Friendship Trail - check with Rona Balco if you want more detail why she is requesting this.
- b. Use Betsy's list of things that need attention

6. **Moen Property** – Karen has found two locations requiring chainsaw work to clear cross trail trees. Locations and work TBD. **Keith has resolved these areas.** Boggy section near entrance (relocate or do duckboards) and make punch-list for other existing bridges Needs trail head sign and trail relocation from parking area to create a "dry trail" completed before winter for next Spring wet season. Larry discussed flagging a new trail. Team to brush cut new path, keeping both trails open as seasonal options. Parking area also needs clearing. Has this work happened? **Group discussed the new flagged trail and how the existing is acting as drainage path for water off the parking lot. Keith suggested a water bar to divert storm water flow. Group is**

planning a site visit the weekend of Sept 12<sup>th</sup> to review. Relocate trail and close existing TBD. Group will also review items "A-E" as listed below.

- a. Adjust entry trail away from boggy section where approaches the loop trail
- b. Check other damp spots and relocate trail as needed
- c. Check existing bridges for stability and schedule repairs
- d. Remap the two loops near Bear Hill and decide whether or not to keep
- e. Re-look at the water-boards added to the Summit Trail and see what's actually needed

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.

8. **Annie Moore** Michele discussed wetlands alterations happening on the Stow side of this property. TC provided a trail map of the area for her use.

- a. Walk full trail and record boardwalks and bridges; create repair list.
- b. Replace known missing board

Jeff visiting this property with Michele on Wednesday 9.9. Naomi (adjacent landowner and avid trail walker) joined us. The trail system is very clear overall. Two long sections of 3' wide constructed bridge walkway on ground exist. 4x4 PT framing on the outer edge of decking creates a center flex and dip in the bridge sections. One bridge old Trex deck, the other is PT deck. A few broken/missing board sections exist. Folder on OneDrive created for Annie Moore and photos posted.

9. **Zinc Property**; *Notify abutters..*

- a. Reinforce one bridge thought to be defective
- b. Assess conditions of 4 other bridges
- c. One bridge needs extension -- get specifics

Group discussed planning a walk at this location to review existing bridge footings. TBD.

10. **Vinger Property**

- a. Scope out options for crossing swampy area (again). Look at possibility of duck bridges
- b. with a raised bridge across the stream itself.
- c. Review trail out to private drive for feasibility

Group discussed tabling this property until Spring, and visiting when trails are wet to determine location and length of bridge work.

11. **Wilder Pond** TC needs to clear trail head parking area (overgrown). Trail head sign also required.

Develop plan for restoring flow between ponds without new construction TC group planning a site visit on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Need to determine property trail, field, and parking lot conditions and scope of work.

12. **Fyfeshire** Betsy, Gordon & Jeff hiked Fyfeshire last week, clearing multiple fall downs. A section near Schartner Farm requires chain saw work. Relocating the trail end around Schartner Farm barn to the left into the field was discussed. TC to discuss next steps. Group discussed waiting to contact Eric Schartner until November once the busy Fall season farm business is past.

## Other TC Items

1. Town Maps – Michele to set up meeting with Gary and Karen (possible other TC members) to review the town mapping software database to make changes and additions using Map My Hike. Jeff to follow up with Michele and Karen regarding meeting status.
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 meeting on 10.13 in the Library program room from 6:30-8pm. Meeting dates of 11.10 and 12.8 TBD. Library has a 4 meeting per year max and only reserves within a 90 day window. Jeff will follow up with the Library to discuss the November and December meeting dates.

5. Organize storage container – build loft, order shelving, keep materials stacked neatly **TBD**

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. Group to discuss. **Group discussed, and determined this a good plan. Starting with Vaughn Hill/Moen, then Zinc. TC will plan a 2016 season alternating “Walk Week” and “Work Week” schedule.**

**Craig discussed a list of trail maintenance items that the TC generally looks for during a property walk. Typical alterations or improvements that a trail “super user” would note, where as a “pedestrian user” might pass by. Craig’s question was a good one.**

**The more trail users who take ownership of conditions, the better. Stopping to adjust small problems can make a big long term difference. Example improvements made during a walk might include clearing/cutting branches, moving impediments, inspecting existing bridge conditions, watching for clear trail markings and signage, picking up trash, and noting and communicating larger project needs. Group discussed these typical scenarios and how TC Walks could support and inform these maintenance needs.**