

# Trails Committee meeting – March 16, 2016

Meeting minutes in red added by JML on 3.17.16

## Properties Overview

1. **Bolton Flats** – No updates. Map current and approved by MassWildlife.
2. **Vaughn Hills**– Several smaller bridges will be replaced next year with materials ordered April 2016. Girl Scout Troop planning involvement for those projects. The new “horse trail” needs trail markers. Several wooden signs on property require replacement. 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. Group discussed a kiosk for the ES project. Larry suggested several water bars are not effective and need review. Karen found a beaver sign next to the Southern pond loop in disrepair. In Larry’s words, “VH needs a tune up”.
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. Group needs approval from the Held family. Trail under construction signs need to be removed. A very wet area at bridge location 3 on route to the new bridge needs duckboards.
4. **Powderhouse Hill** – Trail section from Quail Run is in poor condition. Needs markers and clearing.
5. **Zink-Northwoods** – Possible trail link from Houghton Farm to Northwoods. Group will explore.
6. **Rattlesnake Hill** – Working on a new junction based sign package for this property. 4”x4” letter and number based reflective metal signs. New map has corresponding sign locations. MassCor has provided a quote for 48- 4”x4” junction and 4- 4”x6” trail head signs. Trust ordered and paid for 3.9. Betsy suggested we use index cards to identify sign locations prior to install. One team can scout using GPS and the map to correctly locate the junction signs in a zone. A second team can follow, and replace the cards with the actual metal signs.
7. **Delaney** – Group to review possible access point and trail from East End Road. Jeff waiting on MassWildlife to provide feedback on trails map. Jeff will follow up with Pat in the next week.
8. **Annie Moore** –Greg may have additional property updates. A new secondary loop trail added east of the winding bridge at needs markers.
9. **Randall-Vinger** – Trail data down the road, to the cemetery and beyond required. Larry spoke with Tony Vinger and plans to arrange a site visit. Group will schedule a walk this season.
10. **Gould-White Property** – Property needs trail markers & multiple signs. Scott has seen a few tree falls. Jeff to confirm wood sign specs and placement with Scott
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. A possible trail easement exists per Scott. Jeff will send a GIS map and research Mass Land Records.
12. **Wilder Pond** – A proposed trail section along the Northern edge of the pond crossing the top of the dam needs review. Dam will need to be cleared and the trail marked. Larry visited the site and found water levels very high and the private parcel had new survey stakes. Need to approach land owner.
13. **Fyfeshire** – Contact Eric S. to discuss relocating the W. Berlin trail entrance. A few trees, including a large one near the dam have fallen. Culvert at dam needs clearing.
14. **Bolton Loop Trail** – Planning to walk the entire loop to create a master GPS file by May. Map created at Greg’s request showing segments in conservation and along the roads.
15. **Danforth** – property needs GPS track, property map and Town key map. Walk for week of 3.21.

## Other TC Items

1. **Town Maps** – Property maps completed minus Danforth. Web site development is under way. A group is meeting with the Historical Society on 3.17 for research information for the guide book.
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** – will be scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> in the Houghton building at 6:30PM
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 will schedule container work party if funded for new materials. Jeff will write a materials purchase list for review by the town.
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 other week.
7. **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.
9. **Colored Trail Markers** – Light blue is the highest visible color.
10. **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. Wendy has a tote of trail markers and will see if they can be notch cut.
11. **Mission Statement** – Bob R requested a Trails Committee mission statement. A group of TC members drafted and completed in January. Document was distributed with meeting notes dated 3.17.
12. **TC E-Mail** – an e-mail address for the Trails Committee was created to send group notifications and receive communications from others. For all group communications going forward.
13. **Trail Distances** – a "next step" map project of walking and recording main trail segments using a distance measuring wheel. Confirm calibration and feet/inch unit of measurement. TC may purchase a wheel for this project.
14. **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.
15. **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/>