



Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2017

Houghton Building

Attendance - Rebecca Longvall, Andrew Schaubhut, Keith Silver, jeffrey Bryan (note taker), Larry Kunz (chairman), Gordon Taylor, Bob Roemer, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy

Apology for absence - Steve Rothman, Julianne North (email input)

- Rebecca - reported a grant to help eradicate invasive species at Fyfeshire has been approved. Discussion centered on pesticides, volunteer days, Upper Pond, Bowers Springs brush piles. Larry K. asked about “Round-Up injections”. There was discussion about volunteer days for pulling weeds. Gordon referred to a list of volunteers,
- Overall discussion of who was volunteering to be a caretaker for properties -
 - Drew - Zink-Northwoods, Powderhouse, and Rattlesnake
 - Jeff B - Vaughn Hills
 - Bob R - Rattlesnake
 - Larry K - Bolton Flats, Vaughn Hills, Bowers Springs, Wilder Pond, Kettle Hole
 - Julianne N (by email) - Rattlesnake, Annie and Delaney trails.
 - Gordon T - Welch Pond, Philbin-Salmon, Fyfeshire, Gould-White, Randall-Vinger
- Discussion of the website.
 - Jeff L is the owner and administrator of the website and will continue in that role until the map and guide content is donated.
 - Jeff L will be paying the yearly Weebly fee next month covering all of 2018 for both the website and the domain.
 - Any map revision requests, suggestions, and/or recommendations can be sent to Jeff for review and consideration. Map files will continue to be updated and published as required to remain current and accurate.
 - There was discussion on managing content
 - We agreed there would be no “deep links” posted to TC site without written permission from content owner.
 - Rebecca will obtain permission for our link to the “dog rules” from Town Website.
 - Any new links or changes to existing links into or out of the website should be discussed with Jeff L prior.
 - Gordon and Drew All “author” status editors have direct access to 25 pages on the website. There are 15 pages (most of the historical information, tutorials, terms/ conditions, Stewardship Blog...) that are not open for editing.
- Maps Discussion
 - Representing details on the maps of other towns that abut Bolton Conservation Land
 - No property details will be shown on parcels in neighboring towns, other than tracks that we have mapped showing where said trails lead or end.

- No changes will be made to existing maps for Bolton Flats and Delaney, since we have permission from MA on existing versions.
 - The Houghton Farms map is complete and has been sent to Bob C (Ben's ES project).
 - Jeff L should be included in map revision discussions.
 - Leaf Blowers on the trails - signs to be displayed at Kiosks - recommendations from Julianne [not in attendance, but sent email] Rebecca to obtain signs. Gordon, Betsy, Larry and anybody that's available to install them (nails/pushpins on existing posts and kiosks should be sufficient)
 - Discussion about dog walking rules -
 - Rebecca noted that the Conservation Commission is managing the process - Final draft will be presented at the Conservation Commission meeting on November 28th, then it goes to hearings,
 - Rebecca will get State rules (for Bolton Flats and Delaney) regarding dogs and hunting season
- Trails Conference Weekend discussed by Gordon and Betsy
 - Keynote on community building using appropriate language to get trails approved in rural Kansas
 - Field Trips to Fitchburg Historical Trail and accessible trails in Leominster
 - Discussion about Handicap access
 - Seminar on mapping in West Newbury
 - Best practices on finding volunteers
 - Presentation about erosion and trail building to minimise water damage
 - Presentation and discussion on the impact of trails on wildlife
 - Presentation on latest developments in building the Mass Central Rail Trail
- Property-Specific Items
 - Vaughn Hills --
 - Proposed Bridge -- assessment needed, plan (Rebecca)
 - Noted new BCT property on Harvard land near Photo location 6
 - Noted that new-type PT wood is now allowed on wet ground for bridges. Possibly we can use more culvert style bridges instead of duck boards using smaller diameter pipes.
 - Need to return pondside trail to its original path and move old duck-boards from new bridge-site to remaining wet spot.
 - Bowers Springs -
 - Mowing of North Meadow started by Harvard (west edge only). Remainder scheduled to be done by Jim Henderson -- plus Butternut and Dunnells Gift.
 - Need manual work party for invasives around lower pond
 - What to do with the brush piles and disposal of invasives species? Rebecca to look at "dumpster removal" solution.
 - Powder House -- potential donation nearby.
 - Rattlesnake -
 - Realign the trail near 1F due to deterioration;
 - Signs disappearing - police have been notified;
 - Extension of the trail near Slaters; feasibility walk-through needed [please include Bob Roemer and Winslow Green] more information is needed
 - Big pine down in open field
 - Annie Moore - discussion of easement at "3" concerns - Rebecca to get information about the trails at "P1"

- Danforth - discussion of a feeding tube - overgrown at the rotary. Tree down; Gordon and Larry to clear it.
- Randall - Vinger -- Gordon to review. Betsy had heard that the path is overgrown at the Quaker Cemetery.
- Welch Pond - Some endangered plant species have been seen there; might have been obliterated because of beaver activity, but this will restrict options for a viewing platform, etc.
- Wilder Pond -- discussion and review of the trail.
 - Possible changes to the "Easement" ; Rebecca reviewed the walking plans for the development- plans for a site walk during the week of November 12th. (LK: I spoke with Winslow Green on Sat. and he definitely would like to be included in the walk; avail Tuesday on...)