

Minutes of the November 4, 2019 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Larry Kunz (chair), Gordon Taylor (co-chair), Steve Rothman (note taker), Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Chris Fitzgerald, Rebecca Longvall, Keith Silver, Bob Roemer

1. Gordon reported that the website now includes new Fyfeshire, Zink-Northwoods, Vaughn Hills, Annie Moore and Danforth (including Keyes) maps. He's working on Rattlesnake, which will end up being 5 maps: an overview, the area split into 3 maps, and the Horton Trail.
2. Jeff B is getting quotes for new books. His specifications are basically "just like the current book". One quote was \$2625 for 250 books (\$10.50 per book). There's a second quote for \$1500 for 250 books; it isn't clear if that includes everything (e.g. clear covers). Steve suggested that we get quotes at multiple volume levels– it may be that adding more copies with the first printing is very cheap, vs. having to do additional printings.
3. Gordon got a quote from Staples for laminated maps (doesn't including printing the maps) which should be usable outside.
4. We need a bunch of new photos for the books, to make sure we have the rights to them. The first step will be to figure out which photos we currently can use, and then come up with a list of what's needed.
5. Bob suggested we consider using Versatex, instead of wood, for signs. It's more expensive than wood, but should last a lot longer. Perhaps we can get some local stores to donate some to us.
6. Rebecca asked about the next monthly trail walk. The default date would be Friday, November 29 ("Black Friday"). Rebecca can't lead it that day; someone else will need to volunteer. After discussion, we decided it should be either Northwoods or Annie Moore; in an email vote the next day, we settled on Annie Moore. Rebecca has sent out a notice about the proposed walk to the Trails Volunteers, asking for RSVPs, to see how much interested this is.
7. Larry reviewed the huge progress made at Bowers Springs from the work parties. The website has much more information about what's been done.
 - a. Based on research by Larry, the plan for invasives will be to cut them back 3 times a year, for 3 years– apparently that schedule keeps them under control for the long term (i.e. much less effort needed after 3 years).
 - b. Keith spread nearly all of the two truckloads of fill that has been delivered for the trail at the lower pond.
 - c. Parking lot work starts this week. We're back to using the concrete railroad ties, but they will be partially buried, so they'll serve as wheel stops, without destroying fenders/bumpers/grills.

8. There's a very large tree in Rattlesnake which needs to be addressed. Rebecca has asked the tree warden if he can take care of it; apparently he'll get to it soon.
9. Fyfeshire needs weed wacking on the trail which parallels the road (heading to the restaurant).
10. Gordon attended the Massachusetts Trails Council meeting, and one thing they recommended is a regular online "newsletter" to interested users and volunteers. It would be done once or twice a month, and include topics like:
 - Scheduled trails walks
 - Work Parties
 - Accomplishments
 - Work OpportunitiesWe might also want to have a contact/interests form for people to fill out, although that would require creating and maintaining a database.

Next Meeting Monday, December 2, 2019 - Houghton Building
