

Minutes of the December 9, 2019 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Larry Kunz (chair), Steve Rothman (note taker), Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Rebecca Longvall, Bob Roemer, Hemali Parekh, Conor LaHiff

1. We decided that for 2020 the meetings would continue to be the first Monday of the month, unless that's a holiday in which case it will be the second Monday.
2. We agreed the New Year's Day hike would be the Town Common/Powder House, starting at 1 PM. Rebecca will check with Parks & Rec about parking.
3. Gordon reviewed the Trails email address issues. Bob Roemer volunteered to follow up with Dan Gaffney. LATE NEWS: We now have the email address:
info@boltontrails.org
It's costing the Trust about \$5/month. Gordon will arrange for some members of the Steering Group to be able to send emails from it.
4. We had a discussion about "Mountain Bike Rules" signs at the trailheads, and realized that what we really need is something for all users– the primary item is "Please Stay on Trail".
5. "Please Stay on Trail" signs have been posted along some of the trails on the east side of Vaughn Hills, where trails go near or across private property. Some of the private landowners have had some problems with trail users on the property.
6. We looked at the newly released Rattlesnake Maps. Gordon did a fantastic job on them (although we need to remember that all the maps are based on the huge effort Chris put into the base maps).
7. We talked about stone walls: what we should show on the maps, and the value of having a complete inventory of stone walls on conservation properties. Everyone agreed that at least showing the stone walls which are near trails is very useful, although we won't hold up releasing maps if they don't show the stone walls.
8. We had a discussion about the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) and the Metro Area Planning Council (MAPC). Bolton is not part of MRPC, although we're close to that area; we are part of MAPC, although they focus on Boston and Cambridge. Gordon ran into some MRPC folks at the Leominster trails conference– they have a Regional Trails Coalition which meets monthly, and invited us to attend.
9. Bob noted that trailhead maps (which are displayed outside) need to be color laser printed (not inkjet) and then laminated.

10. Gordon is going to create one sheet "kiosk" versions of the new maps which include a QR code.
11. We talked about applying for grants which could help fund various projects. The process is generally "Apply", "Get approval", "Spend the money", "Get reimbursed". So that means the Trust and/or ConCom would initially need to fund the projects. Proposals need to be submitted in the next couple of months, which is too little time to get them defined and proposals written. So we agreed we'd plan on applying in early 2021. We need to decide which of our projects would qualify for grants.
12. Larry provided a update on the Bowers work. The early snow has suspended most of the activities. About 80% of the "low side" path at the lower pond is finished, with about 60% of the total path around the lower pond done. The railroad ties have been delivered to the parking lot.
13. We need to get a GPS track for the Zink-Northwoods trail to Laurel Drive.

Next Meeting Monday, January 6, 2020 - Houghton Building
