

Minutes of the February 3, 2020 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

1. Larry and Gordon reviewed what happened at the January Montachusett Regional Trails Committee (MRTC) meeting. Larry, Gordon and Steve are now official members of MRTC. A "private" web page has been set up with info about MRTC. If you're a member of the Steering Group and didn't see the message about how to get to it, contact Steve.
2. We will apply for a MassTrails Grant in 2021– the deadline for this year was February 1, and there's a fair amount of work needed to pull together a proposal. The plan is to apply for a grant for a "Bowers Sustainability Plan", which Larry outlined at the meeting. It will cover 3 areas: Invasives, Trail Surface erosion, and Parking Overload.
3. Gordon reviewed the new maps status:
 - a. 11 are done– all are on the website.
 - b. 5 are left, although 2 of those are state properties (Bolton Flats and Delaney), so are lower priority. The remaining 3 are Welch Pond, Wilder Pond, and Bolton Overlook.
 - c. Gordon noted that area 10 has been named back to Vinger-Venable, which is what it was called in the past.
4. Some of the maps posted in field have been updated with the new email address, using clear packing tape. That solution doesn't work for very long exposed to the weather, so we spent some time talking about creating new field maps– what size they should be, how to print them, how to seal them, and how to mount them. There will be some experiments done to see what works best.
5. The January monthly hike was at Zink-Northwoods. Several people felt the limited parking was a problem– there were a bunch of cars along the road. The next monthly hike will be February 28, tentatively set for "North Vaughn Hills", starting at the Moen parking area, and probably going into Harvard before returning. There was also some interest in changing the starting time from 9 AM to 10 AM.
6. Rebecca reported she is ready to put up "Area of Revegetation" signs on the steep (non-) trail in Bowers. There was a discussion about actually blocking it off.

- 7. Gordon reviewed the areas with down trees and other work that needs to be addressed:
 - a. Two trees near each other at Powder Hill– unfortunately, about half way in from each of the entrances. One will be easy to take care of; the other difficult.
 - b. Two trees in Zink-Northwoods, also about half way in– although if there's access from Laurel Drive, that would be easier. Alexis Apapoff reported that some bridges need leveling.
 - c. A large pine tree in Rattlesnake on the path to the Sawyer Grist Mill.
 - d. One tree at Vinger-Venable.
 - e. One tree at Haynes-Wheeler.
 - f. One tree at Houghton Farm.
 - g. One tree at Gould-White.
 - h. Alexis Arapoff reported (by email) that bridges on the Bartch property (part of Bowers) need some maintenance. That's actually Trust property. LATE NEWS: Rebecca talked to Dan Gaffney; he said it's fine to do the repairs.

Next Meeting Monday, March 2, 2020 - Houghton Building
(A new note taker will be needed! Please volunteer.)
