

Minutes of the April 6, 2020 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting (Virtual Meeting held with Zoom)

Attendees:

Larry Kunz (chair), Steve Rothman (note taker), Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Bob Roemer, Keith Silver, Rebecca Longvall, Hemali Parekh, Drew Schaubhut

Maps

1. Gordon reported that all the new maps are done, although not all have been published on the website yet.
2. There was a period of a week or two where the Open Street Map base map we've been using wasn't available, so the last two of the new maps were created with the regular OSM base. Everyone agreed that all the maps should use the same base, although we didn't come to a final decision about which one. The advantages of the old one are that Gordon wouldn't have to redo most of the maps, and they're less "busy", so they might look better when they shrink down to book or cell phone screen size. The advantages of the new one are the additional details, plus less risk that something might happen to our base (as just happened).

Website

3. Gordon has added the All Trails Club to the website:
<https://boltontrails.org/all-trails-club-2>
4. There's been a lot of experimenting to try to get an online form for an application to the All Trails Club. Greg has an Excel form, and was looking into a MS-Word form. Rebecca created a Google Form. Several folks thought a PDF form would be best, but you need a "full" Acrobat license to create those. Drew volunteered to create a PDF form.
5. We still don't have a good solution for making KMZ/KML/GPX files available on the website. Wordpress doesn't like those file types, presumably because it thinks they can be malware. As a workaround, Gordon is zipping them up (to create a .ZIP file), and WordPress is happy to allow those– but we'd rather not require users to know how to deal with .ZIP files. This is still an open issue.

Upcoming Events

6. Rebecca noted that this year instead of a meeting at the library, the Earth Day observance will be a video.
7. Rebecca noted that the SVT planned cleanup on April 18 near the Bolton/Berlin line has been postponed.

Properties

- 8. We held a discussion about how COVID is impacting use of the trails, and causing some overflow parking problems. We're hoping that people follow the posted rules, and follow the CDC recommendations on masks and distancing. Rebecca noted that if things get really bad, the town has the option of closing the sites, although that's not currently under consideration.

- 9. We reviewed the issue with the beaver dam at Vaughn Hills. The trails near the dam are very wet, and users are tending to widen the trails to avoid the wet areas– which is undesirable. Rebecca's goal is to have some new trails which are far enough/high enough to (almost) never get wet, plus keep the existing trails for users who want to get close to the dam. Rebecca noted any plan along these lines will need to first go to ConCom for approval.

- 10. Rebecca and Larry reviewed some cleanup they did at Bowers. Larry reviewed the plan for the ongoing projects at Bowers (Trail Surface Reinforcements, Invasives Management, Parking Lot).

- 11. The bridge on the Bartch Connector needs repair.

Next Meeting Monday, May 4, 2020
This will almost certainly be another Zoom meeting.
