Minutes of the June 1, 2020 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:
Larry Kunz (chair), Hemali Parekh (note taker), Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Bob Roemer, Steve Rothman, Andrew Schaubhut, Jeff Bryan, Keith Silver, Bob Johnson

1. Arrows at Annie Moore

Greg has reported that there has been higher use of trails but, the markers have survived at Annie Moore.

2. Desired Paths

We discussed the guideline for what to do when a hiker comes across a muddy or wet part of trail with no access to cross. Trail guide has this information which has been agreed upon in past. Stay on trail and stay in the middle if there are no bridges to cross mud. Staying in middle ensures that we do not increase width by stepping on sides. You can use rocks If rocks are available. They can be placed in the middle of trail to avoid stepping in the mud. All major trail sites like AMC have similar guidelines.
ConCom approval is needed to reroute the trail when we can establish that that part remains wet regularly.

3. Offer to work at Bowers and Vaughn Hill.

Two people offered to help with Bowers and Vaughn Hill trails. Rebecca has looked at both requests. There was an offer to build bridges for Bowers springs, but part of the trail belongs to Harvard so we could not comment on it. Rebecca has responded and offered to add them to volunteer list.

4. Bolton Loop Trail

Guidebook was found for old Bolton Loop Trail. We discussed the plan for the trail. Rebecca mentioned that they have a summer intern who will be working on east-west crossing of the southern part of the loop. Her task would be to connect the two trails. It was brought up that part of Bolton Loop trail and Thoreau trail are being used. She will also explore options where a connection can be made by going to other towns. for example Berlin.

5. Guidebook, maps and website

- Rebecca has finished the work for contours. Gordon is fixing maps to match for the guidebook. Gordon said that he might have figured out how to upload zip-files. kmz files will work.

- We discussed that we need to discuss the timeframe for a fresh guidebook and number of copies needed this year. It was agreed that another quote to print the copies is needed as it has been a while since Jeff got the quote. We should also get a quote with spiral binding.

- We can apply for state grant to print the book but we will have to pay first and then apply for the grant money. Trust might be able to cover the cost. On the other hand, to print a copy that looks good would need more money

- Local grant may also be available from the Cultural Council. In the past, money was awarded with local grant but it was never claimed. Grant money could also be used for large kiosk and maps.

- Gordon reported that there is a link in the online Trail map which would show user where they are on the map. Also, we use dynamic QR codes for map so they can be pointed to new location easily.

- A counter for website would allow us to track the traffic to website. Also, Rebecca has asked to report on total number of cars present to track the activity during this time.

6. New sign holders

Bob reported that 43 sign holders are ready. We need some maps to put in. UV protective lamination material would be needed to protect maps. All existing trail maps have red lines on them. We will use spreadsheet inventory to replace them. Bob mentioned that 2 x 4 would work to mount the maps and we may still have them. After that pressure treated wood 2 X4 might work, too.

Seven trails had kiosks in the past which may be still true. We may want to provide shelter to others to protect them from elements.

7. Events

Events are not encouraged yet. No monthly hikes yet. but virtual tours can be an option. Rebecca would plan self-guided monthly hikes. She may use one of the suggested hikes in the trail guide for this. Saturday is National Trails Day

8. Sign Inventory

We agreed that we would record all the signs and their locations. We also plan to use the maintenance inventory file that has been shared by Andrew in the past. Andrew will send an email on how to update inventory and manage inventory guide.