

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

Attendees:

Larry Kunz (chair), Hemali Parekh (note taker), Rebecca Longvall, Bob Roemer, Steve Rothman, Andrew Schaubhut, Keith Silver

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

1. COVID-19 Guidelines

- Guidelines for activities, trails maintenance and walks.
- Rebecca has sent an email with policies that describes the guidelines to volunteer for trail work or to participate in any organized events with Bolton. All volunteers should watch video, complete questions and send the certificate of completion to Rebecca. All walks and events would require pre-registration. Once someone pre-registers, they will receive these guidelines and ask to follow pre-qualification steps. Bowers and other projects also requires pre-registration and limited to 10 total number of participants at the most. All guidelines are to ensure everyone stays safe.
- **Mass central rail trail** - Larry, Steve and Gordon participated in mass central Rail trails project (Group is working on connecting all rail trail up to NY state line) meetings twice last month and represented to Bolton Trails committee. Most of projects are on hold but there is a meeting about preparing for submission to get funding that is coming up in Clinton this month. Our group is planning on outfitting these trails and what is needed for this work.
- **self-guided walk** - An email was sent from Rebecca about a self-guided walk that is led by intern has been set up. QR codes have been installed. Rebecca would like to get feedback if anyone tries this.

2. Guidebook and maps

- Status - Final version has been sent out. New trail guide has been under final review by Maureen and Rebecca before it goes to press. New trail guide could be sold online Questions regarding trails. Bolton trail guide came up in Next Door app. It is ok to bring up website and that new trail guide is coming in discussions at this point. Also, while Rebecca was doing some trail work, someone complemented he about trails. Rebecca brought up BoltonTrails.org website to access trail maps. She also brought up "All Trails Club" which was received very well.
- We have QR codes on the maps that are at kiosks that are used constantly.
- Display maps (all segments used for measurement) - Gordon was working on new layer for base map. Drew has talked with the new intern about working on maps as an option. He has not been enjoying field work with 90 degree weather so, There is a chance that the intern may pick up this work.

- **Kiosk work** Rebecca mentioned that their Intern has completed inventory for the kiosk maps. New maps has the new QR codes. We could also add website on them if QR codes needs to be updated.

- **Website updates**

Drew suggested to have a dashboard page where Trail committee members can go and find all the links like the uMap link and the sign inventory link, etc. Steve brought up there is already developer page with icons and png files, etc. This would be similar page with links. Drew would be happy to help with this work.

3. Signs

- a. Field maps - Intern has done the inventory of what is available like kiosk, and what is needed to install field maps. Plan is to start this work once the weather cools down enough to dig posts, etc. Bob has the signs and supplies ready and 24 maps ready to go.
 - b. Posts - Rebecca mentioned that we have posts for “No motorized vehicle allowed” ready to go on all kiosks. This is related to an incident that was reported where someone was driving a mini Segway. No motorized vehicle is allowed. Ask them to reach the office or speak with them if you feel comfortable.
 - c. Sign inventory - Alex has started this for Vaughn Hill and has walked the whole property. Signs are missing at North Peak. Also there is old graffiti at woodside area that is partially covered. Rebecca mentioned that this is old and known. she will try and cover it more. Bare Hill Road sign for access to Vaughn Hill is missing. When we add a new sign for Vaughn Hill area, we should also add a picture to help locate it.
4. International Golf Club sale and Schultz Farm trail(s) - Gordon wanted to discuss status of property and the trail easement. If we can locate the deeded easement in registry of deeds, and If CR shows the trail then we should mark the trail on property and get the trail done now. We can put markers in place. There is interest from large hotel chains to buy that and the farmer that farms there wants to get this sorted out soon. Betsy is helping with this work.
 5. Taggart’s property : Rebecca said that p&s has been signed and waiting for hard-copy which would come from California. the whole process is expected to take a year, overall this is making progress as expected so far. Applied for a land grant and MAPC grant and other grants, too.
 6. All Trails Club: Brianna the intern is the new member. She has completed all the trails before she finished the internship.
 7. Wilder trail needs to be trimmed both from us and the developers as she could not find the entrance from the developer side when she was sent to check if there are conservation marking from that side. She could not see the markers.
 8. Brushing the trails at Rattlesnake (Alexis) Alexis emailed that he has added larger brush to original brush to discourage people from going through the path that is not

part of actual trail. Path had opened up again and hikers/riders were using it. Rebecca thinks it is being used not on purpose but by mistake.

9. Area review - umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/anonymous-edit/208600:n6ETPGWLnMDcac23Wovwb5y3YtE

- New signs have been added to the uMap by the two interns. We reviewed newly added updates.
 - “Sign needed” ones have been added by interns.
 - Two bridge repairs are needed at Vaughn Hills. One of the bridges is washed out.
 - “map needed” are related to kiosk work.
 - damage at Rattlesnake which Bob will take care.
 - Sink holes at Bowers are real. Some are between the two trails, too. We can’t work on the sink holes as some are directly into the water. DPW person has background and training in Hydrological assessment and storm damage. We do want someone to take care due to hazard and public safety and integrity of dams so, Rebecca will ask for his help. sink holes started by dog going after beaver. Upper part of lower pond is where Rebecca watched the dog going after beaver.
- Bob has helped with sink holes recently at Sturbridge. He would take a look at these to get a better idea of what is causing them.
- Trail reinforcement with loam at Bowers and paring lot are both on pause now. Larry stopped by at DPW. Joe is on leave and DPW is short-handed so this is taking longer. Parking area work will be quick once DPW has time. We also cannot do anything while nature camp is running.
- Norway Spruce maintenance is done.
- Houghton farm - no update
- Sawyer mill trail - tree down
- Danforth - few tree down
- Lime Kiln - Bob took care of a Hickory which was marked as a 8” wide oak.
- fyfeshire - invasive plants need to be taken care of. If anyone works on this, they can fill black bags, leave them at the property and let Rebecca know. DPW usually picks them up.
- Euonymus and bitter sweet are threatening areas at Lime Kiln. Cutting it seem to encourage growth so we may want to pull it out of the ground using tractors. This is another good project for fall when they turn red and easy to identify. Bob is thinking of a mega weed wrench for this.
- Buckthorn identification and removal - Rebecca is working with Bolton local on this work. There will be one-page information written and displayed on website.
- Mountain Laurel trail which is off of Peach hill road ext. off of Fyfeshire is open now in Peach Hill conservation area in Berlin.
- Four scotch pines on edge of Kettle hole property would be removed by Town warden.

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