

## Minutes of the July 13, 2020 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

### Attendees:

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

### **1. Scott Duhaime's note to the Trails Committee**

Scott sent a note to Trails steering committee asking if there has been any discussion with property owners on Randall Road area. He also suggested to walk the property to identify key features and trails.

Rebecca will reply to Scott's note. Rebecca mentioned that this is an excellent idea, but we cannot walk on private property without permissions from owners as it would be trespassing. SVT, has been working on Taylor property. Due to previous violations, land owners prefer to work with SVT instead of BCT and ConCom.

We discussed that Trails committee likes the idea and we would support if these property owners decides to put a CR.

### **2. Winslow Green and Cindy Ayotte's suggestion for Vaughn Hills Pond**

Winslow suggested modifications to Vaughn Hill property and to add additional walkways and observation areas with benches. Rebecca mentioned that any new proposal should be drafted as a plan and proposed to ConCom for approval. Rebecca would review it for in regards to how it affects ecosystem and wildlife, water supply, etc. ConCom reviews the plan and it may need additional permissions before building new walkways.

Concern was raised if the water level in this area stable? The answer is that water level is variable in that area. There is too much water some year and the area is not accessible. There has been discussion in past to move the trail altogether and some updates have been added in past to address the issue when this trail is too wet.

### **3. Alex Berube's interest in helping us.**

Alex has volunteered with Trails committee in past and has worked on Fyfeshire property. There are a few projects that can be done by one person. Signs inventory update, boundary markers, etc. Gordon mentioned that there is some work related to maps that Alex can help with as well. Andrew will reach out to Alex and offer him project options.

#### **4. Discussion on police were notified for parking off of Berlin Rd.**

The Independent's Police Blotter noted that someone had called the police about a person from the Conservation Commission using their private driveway. Language of easement is not very clear. Currently, this parking has been taken off until ConCom clarifies that it is a valid parking. We should display a sign from now on that says that "ConCom is working in trails". Police will not have to wait for too long if they know it is someone from ConCom. Rebecca already has a sign that she will send via email. Please let her know if you cannot print and would like her to print it for you.

#### **5. Quaker Park; (Next Door post from Ed Sterling)**

Parks and Rec. is considering an Eagle Scout project to refurbish this area, and they have suggested a kiosk with trail information. There was some work done in past as part of an old Eagle Scout project. Bob brought up that Ed may have been part of this project in the past. There might be a lot of information saved as part of that project which would help Ed if he is interested in setting up a new Eagle Scout project. Bob will send an email to Ed.

#### **6. Updates on Guidebook, website, maps.**

- Guidebook: should we try to include any other areas (e.g. Century Mill)?
  - Rebecca mentioned that Century Mills will be in future guidebook and not part of this one.
- Guidebook: almost ready for printing, but some investment is needed; out for quotation now.
  - Gordon has gotten quotes to print guidebook and has sent an email to Bolton Conservation Trust. Gordon also proposed that we should charge more for new guidebooks as they have more contents. SVT trail guides are sold for \$25.
- All Trails Club membership application
  - Gordon has already added All Trails Club online. Anyone can download a form, fill it up and upload form to web site for review. Rebecca has asked to make Drew's version available online as well.
  - There is limitation on file format that can be uploaded to word press. Gordon has currently set up a format that would work.
- Documentation has been reviewed in detail by Maureen and Drew. Greg also offered good feedbacks. Gordon has updated based on feedbacks.

#### **7. New field maps and other information signs.**

19 signs are ready to go after Rebecca printed and laminated signs. Bob has another 42 frames waiting for future. We need to identify locations, what is available at site to post these signs so we can go with proper supplies.

- visit sites and take inventory of what is needed to post the signs.

- Hang signs where no additional tools are needed.
- Plan a future visit with tools for other places. We will have to enlist people who can help with this work.
- Rebecca mentioned that a new intern would be joining soon who can help with inventory work.

## 8. Events

- COVID-19
  - Rebecca has discussed with ConCom and Town about holding events and property maintenance work parties. She is drafting a letter based on Appalachian Trails Conservancy(ATC). She will have a short video and steps to get certified to be back on trails. There will be guidelines for events and work parties, too. Following these will help keep volunteers/attendees safe. Total number of people would be limited to 10, one person per area, no sharing of food, no sharing of tools, etc. would be part of this guideline. Additionally, no work party when Tom Denney Nature Camp.
- Delays - same as above.
- Monthly hike
  - QR code with description for Annie Moore. guidelines would be same as above.
  - pre-registration would be required.
  - Rebecca would be present for events, workdays, etc.

## 9. Sign Inventory

- Alex might be able to help with this work

## 10. Area review [http://umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/bolton-trails-issues-and-invasives\\_208600#14/42.4429/-71.5867](http://umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/bolton-trails-issues-and-invasives_208600#14/42.4429/-71.5867)

- This map has been updated by intern with new findings.

## 11. Trail review

- Fyfeshire needs a new sign.
- Rona discussed about some work at Powder House. Rebecca will reach out and find out what did she need,
- FaceBook post saying that trail signs for Vinger-Venable are not very clear if you take right by the fence. Rebecca mentioned that metal fencing at W. Berlin road had to be replaced.