

Minutes of the October 5, 2020 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Annie Moore Trail sign and Bridge Bandit

Greg has reported that trail signs are being stolen at Annie Moore from Bolton Stow junction to junction at other roads and along Overlook trail area. Greg has replaced about 40 blazes and placed them about 8 feet high hoping that this would discourage sign removal.

Greg walks the trails a few times a week and Rebecca monitors regularly so she can address this directly with the person who is removing the signs.

Painting is being discussed as an option if this continues. Rebecca is planning to bring up paint as an option at ConCom meeting.

All Trails Club

Congratulations to Betsy who is the latest member of All Trails Club. Greg would like to advertise in newspaper or newsletter to get traction and more people to join the club. Other options discussed were to advertise along with the ad to sell new trail guides, sending as an update via trust newsletter, reaching out to Girl Scouts and Boy Scout troop leaders to get them interested to earn the patch.

Greg knows one of the Girl Scout leaders who is also active in Boy Scouts and has been discussing about encouraging troops to work towards this patch.

Bowers maintenance and brush hog

Brush hog is not working. Ronnie at DPW may have fixed it. Rebecca or Larry will go and check if it is working now. Brush hog is best way to clear trails when plants like bitter sweet and poison ivy are in bloom along Bower springs. It is the only brush hog that town has and is very helpful in controlling poison ivy along roadsides, too.

Bowers maintenance update - DPW has cleared the circle between Flanagan Road and parking lot and have started to put wheel stops and railroad tires. They will also fill in pot holes to spruce up the area and trim the sides to make it accessible for emergency vehicles to avoid incidents similar to the one with ice last year. ConCom and Rebecca are working with public safety to identify the vegetation to be trimmed.

Another load of loam tailings for reinforcements is in place to be distributed. Keith has agreed to help with Kubota when a work party is ready to work on it. Larry has sent an email with location of this material. Material is similar to other but with higher percentage of twigs that are about 2-6". Larry will organize a work party with volunteers based on Keith is available.

Lot of logs were moved near beach area which needs to be moved back. Logs from downed trees below the nature camp area can be used if volunteers can help drag them out. Rebecca will also communicate that logs from beach are should not be moved. They keep foot traffic away from the edge of the pond.

Update on holes at Bowers - Holes are large but can't be filled without assessment as they are ecological concern. Dam might not be compromised but Rebecca has asked to get area assessed (dam with water) . Holes can not be filled without review due to proximity to water, we would alter resource area if we fill the hole. We can put a rock over it or flag it so no one gets hurt.

Keith Myles land

Town will have a CR for Myles property which is used as an access by hikers. ConCom is waiting for counsel to review the CR. Myles property is being donated by Mr. Keith Myles to the trust and CR to the town. This gift has been accepted. Documentation and process is under progress. Map shows this area but it is colored as private. Once it is formally turned over, we should mark it and update map.

Winged euonymus eradication at Rattlesnake (Kiln/Whitcomb Quarry area) on Saturday October 17

Bob will send an email to volunteers again for work party. Fall is best time to remove euonymus. Weed wrench can uproot plants up to 2" in diameters. Rebecca will also bring weed wrenches borrowed from SuAsCo CISMA, a cooperative invasive management association, that is partnering with us and offering equipment to us.

Drought - water low at Fyfeshire - does this provide an opportunity or a problem?

Water levels are low at Fyfeshire due to drought. Larger trees that have fallen in water are exposed. Gordon wonders if we can remove old trees that are very big.

Similarly, Whitcomb quarry property is walkable and this might be good time to clean up.

Rebecca says that Wattaquadock pond is extremely muddy so it is not safe. Early winter is better time once ground freezes. This also requires review and approval from ConCom as that area can still be unsafe to work.

Rebecca will bring this up for lower pond as someone helps maintain lower pond.

Drew wonders if we could put a lookout or walkway to offer pond view. This requires a permit process. A concept plan and review of property and material needs to be done before presentation to ConCom. A proposal from trails crew would hold higher value as crew connects with trail users while working at the property.

MRTC and MCRT

No meeting this time. Survey is still on hold until they send it out to everyone.

Field Signs

New field signs are printed and ready in lamination sleeves. Bob has been putting signs at the property. Gordon has been updating maps when it is requested by Rebecca, Rebecca will check the list to request maps with updates if required. This project is making good progress.

Guidebook, maps, "how-to document", trails segmentation, "freezing and storing master files"

Guidebooks are at trust's office so reach out to trust to buy the guidebooks. Gordon has found some correction which will be done for second print order. Trail guide is on agenda for ConCom meeting on 14th.

Hemali and Drew have offered to volunteer with trail segmentation on maps. Gordon would like to freeze these files and save them somewhere like DropBox.

Website: HQ

Rebecca will help upload trailer material inventory and Gordon is working on "How-to" document which will be published once ready.

Schultz Farm and the International

A small group is meeting to look at and mark the easement. This should be helpful with discussion once The International is sold to new owners. There have been few bids but no known outcome.

Special Projects

Gordon has made signs and placed them at Danforth. He would like to know if any other area needs signs.

Plank bridge is gone at Wilder. Replacing the bridge can be done but not a priority. Replacing bridge is approved by commission as it is replacing existing bridge and straight forward job to do.

None of the special projects are high priority for now.

Area review

Tree down at Old Town Hall which is very close to town hall.

There is another tree 1/4 mile from Power Hill Road.

Bowers - a big tree has been there with multiple trunks. DPW will bring chipper and clear it.

Kettle Hole Trail - 4 diseased trees marked by tree warden. No timeframe on removal yet but Rebecca will check with tree warden.

There are other marked trees on maps. Please add/remove information on maps. It would be good to prioritize things on map.

Question about placing a trail for Delaney area was raised which is a wet land. if an overlook or platform can be created there to add interest and provide an access to view the pond. It might be possible to add a platform but it needs to be reviewed. we also have to work with state. Rebecca thinks that it is wet area and has been left alone to protect the area. We have added them to map but trails are not maintained by Trails committee.