

Minutes of the September 14, 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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

1. HQ web page

HQ page has been created by Andrew that looks very nice and helpful to keep information in organized manner. It provides a centralized place to store all the information that was kept locally until now. Page will remain hidden. We still should be careful of the content added on this page.

2. MRTC (Montachusett Regional Trails Committee) and MCRT (Mass Central Rail Trail)

Larry, Gordon and Steve continue to participate in their meeting as volunteers from Bolton. Our interest is about MCRT from Bolton side. The Town of Clinton is planning to purchase the area that has a tunnel as part of this project. They are planning to send out a preliminary plan for a review. Sub committee of Trails committee will review this plan and send a combined feedback to them. They would like to get a cumulative review from each town but, Berlin does not have any representation yet.

Bob and Rebecca pointed out that they should be reaching out to officials from each town and get feedback from them, too. They will have to reach out to official groups of Bolton in order to get proper feedback on behalf of Bolton residents. She has seen projects being not able to be accepted if they do not involve town officials and get their feedback, etc. Bob asked if they have simple one-page document with project plan that describes steps on the approach that they have. They also need a formal plan.

It does not seem like they are very organized which is a cause for concern since it is a good project otherwise. This proposal is from a few consultants with backing from DCR and DoR. Eventually state will come to towns and tell this is what we would like to do. But, there are still a lot of unknowns at this point. Only small portion of this trail would go through Bolton.

There was also concerns from few people who have abutting properties who had a lot of questions during the meeting that was attended by Rebecca but, they had not been addressed.

3. Guidebook, website, maps

Gordon has gotten first draft of guidebook printed. New guide is thicker than previous one. It has 62 pages. It does not have a fold out map but, map stretches between two

pages. Printer has done a good job in this area. Gordon has given feedback after reviewing first draft.

Guidebook would cost \$10 a book to print and we would charge them for \$15.

Trust will also need to figure out details on how to sell, where to store books and handle money/profit from sale. Trust is already set up to sell from their website. Having guidebook at Town Clerk's office provides visibility but, we will have to figure out logistics of how to handle money with town.

In past 20-30 books were sold at Town hall, but it is not clear how money was handled. Rebecca is planning to discuss this with Town clerk(Pam) and relay information back to Trails committee and Conservation Trust.

Pre-order concept is really nice. We can advertise in Next Door, FaceBook and town website and town newspaper.

There have been 10-20 books requested already. Our website is not set up to take money.

Another question is how do we ship the guides and where to store them? It would be easier if Trust stores them instead of anyone storing at home.

Documentation on how to create and update maps is out of date and needs to be updated.

4. New field maps and other information signs.

Gordon would like to add another layer on maps (called the segmentation layer) so numbers can be turned on and off. If someone can help, that would be great. This project is time consuming and tedious, but necessary for measuring trail length. Help would be appreciated, but this might be difficult to organize with COVID guidelines.

Documentation on how to create and update maps is out of date and needs to be updated. Gordon is working on this.

Maps are ready and information needed was gathered by interns. Bob would like help with planning if someone can visit property with him and help mark the exact locations where these signs need to go. Rebecca says that she and some volunteers from committee can help with this work. Bob has nice post digger that would be very helpful to do this work.

5. Events

Monthly Hikes:

Rebecca would like to start setting this up again if possible as per Covid-19 related guidelines.

We would also like to start setting up work parties with Covid-19 related guidelines.

Possible work parties:

- a. Bower springs - invasive clearing work and other work
- b. Bowers - DPW will help with Lower pond area.
- c. Wilder - Finding trail from farm to pond. Pond is dry and you can walk across right now. Rebecca and Gordon wanted to repair a plank but could not find it. That area requires invasive clearing. A new 13 foot bridge is likely to be needed.
- d. Before we replicate material used at new bridge at Vaughn Hill, it needs to be reviewed by ConCom and repaired. Since material used there has been eroded, it needs to be reviewed before similar material is used in any other place.
- e. 13 ft long bridge on the brook can be replaced as it is replacing existing bridge. It will have to be mentioned into the committee but, this work would be ok to do.

6. Area review and anything else

International and Schultz Farm area

We should flag the trails from corner of Baldville Rd to the property line since it is already deeded. Schultz farm has used this property but, it is not easy It would make it easy to show that it is being used if it is flagged properly. It is 50 ft on either side of the brook so, trail can be within this area. Rebecca and Betsy will organize this task.

Ed Taylor - They might be planning to move. Rebecca will see if SVT can get more information from them

Signs for Danforth - Two signs are needs to be placed up towards Barrett's Hill summit but it is not very easy to tell where the summit is. Rebecca can help to find out if there is any marker by using USGS maps. If this is possible, it would be nice and helpful.

Powered House: There is a big tree that is about 45' from Old Town House Road which requires chain saw.

Rebecca mentioned that library is planning to install new story walk this fall. Until that happens, Rebecca will go and fix the existing ones so, they look good.