

Minutes of the December 07, 2020 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

1. MCRT - Larry and Gordon

Consultants have created impressive document. There was a 30 day period for feedback. Larry and Gordon submitted an email to request that this gets extended to community/towns but no action was taken on that. They were told that representative from regional trails coalition would still take input from organizations if there is a significant input.

Richard Kerver is stepping aside to take on another role and John Cronin is the new contact for Regional Trails coalition.

Gordon, Hemali, Betsy and Naomi walked part of the trail in November. Larry and Gordon had walked this section during summer. Gordon, Betsy and Hemali also walked the tunnel which is pretty cool place.

2. Self Guided tour - Rebecca

Rebecca is working with ConCom to create self guided tours with photos. Tours would be filmed by Bolton access TV. People can then view the tour before going to walk the trail.

Rebecca has sent out a sign up sheet If anyone is interested in participating to create self guided tours that highlights your favorite route and any landmarks or vegetation along that route. Sign up for the tour that you would like to pick. If you have a favorite loop or out and back trail, with personal feedback that can be highlighted. In addition, QR codes would be displayed along trail to provide details and pictures.

Gordon has provided feedback for the first one with QR codes that can be displayed along the way. Gordon was concerned about storing the videos to trust website. Videos might be too large of the storage in website. Naomi said that she would like to volunteer for this.

3. Taggart Land update

No update yet but Rebecca is expecting that we will be closing in couple of weeks. There are some good ideas but let's wait until this gets closed.

4. Powder House Trail addition - Drew

A concern was raised about having a trailhead without ample parking. Rebecca mentioned that this has not stopped us in past. That was the only known concern.

Discussed a few TODO items

- a. Rebecca suggests to flag the trail and watch it for a spring and then we can get it approved with ConCom if trail is dry or if we can identify crossing area if needed. Once it is approved, we can create the trail. (Drew)
- b. Part of trail is also on private property. Approval from Colby family would be needed for the part that is in private property Someone needs to reach out to Colby family (Drew/Rebecca)
- c. There is a part that is on property boundary as well. There might be an easement already and it may have some tapes as Betsy, Al and SVT walked the easement. That area might also have an option to park on the side of Harvard Road. Rebecca will verify that the CR is still available. Part of that is a wet land and there is a stone wall as you walk up further. (Rebecca/Betsy)
- d. Rebecca will look into encroachment assessment is needed for some of the area. (Rebecca)

5. Environmental police

Rebecca is working with environmental policy about a poaching situation. She has asked us not to walk the area until this issue is resolved. This is southern portion of Wilder pond off the common driveway where a trail the runs parallel to 117. This is a recurring issue as it has been dealt with in the past.

6. Trailer

Email with list of the items in trailer was sent by Rebecca and it has been uploaded to HQ page. Gordon would like to get actual lengths for pieces of wood. Rebecca can get the lengths. We don't have as much lumber compared to past but we do have some. ConCom budget for FY21 is budgeted. We have enough for next year but for following year, we most likely would not have material for multiple bridges. (2022) We need to get estimate cost for that year and we could apply for grants, etc that we can apply to. This year we were asked to level find this year as we were purchasing Taggart property and catching up on other properties.

Greg and Rebecca discussed about question about Boy Scouts projects. Is there a preference between bridges and kiosks? There is no preference.

Larry suggested that a standard kit requirements for bridges would help plan for requirements. Cost of material need to be found out but that constantly changes.

Boy Scouts were able to get a lot of material donated by Lowes in past. Greg can get some cost estimates as part of their projects. There is a standard drawing for bridge but Kiosk drawings have been modified and needs to be updated. Once Greg sends this information, Rebecca can

7. Maps

Drew, Hemali, Greg and Gordon have been meeting weekly to iron out map segment and match them with measured distances accurately. uMap has segments with markings like a, b, c, etc that are being matched with measurements from spreadsheet provided by Greg with accurate distances. Previously this was done by Jeff Lawrence.

Each one is working on a few areas to complete this so online uMap map and next version of guide would also have updated segmentation maps.

There is value to keep trails updated regularly as some trails have gone missing and new trails have been added. Greg has gone out to measure trails where needed.

Online maps have also changed over the years. Delaney has changed more significantly. Houghton Farm has a minor change which is included in guide and online map.

8. Trail Guides

Trail guides are being sold well. There are no more in stock. New ones are being printed which is second printing with some updates. Online maps can be updated when needed but this version of guide would not be able to take any updates for second printing. Third printing would have those updates for Zink-Northwoods that Rebecca has requested.

Rebecca has updated signage to avoid people from going to private property. Property owner would like to block people from coming out to their property. Gordon can put a wooden sign if needed.

9. Trail work

Greg and his son took care of couple of projects at Annie Moore

Zink-Northwoods trail head — need more prominent entrance on both sides to make entrances more clear from the road. Clear a bit more of vegetation around entrance so it is 3-5 feet wide. Same from other side (Sugar RD to Corn Road also needs to be widen) so it is more visible.

Sign for entrance to Moen parking lot is also not visible from road and needs more visibility. An eagle scout project to paint the signs would be helpful as we do need more visible signs.

10. Area reviews using Issues map

- A sizable tree is down between Wattaquadock pond by road. Needs more than one person to clear. Someone who lives nearby has offered to volunteer with brush work but not sizable tree. They would like views and we would like them to clear invasive so it is beneficial to them and us.
- Invasive work can be done at Bowers if we can get weed wrenches.

- Impassable blowdown at Bowers and one behind Town hall have been cleared by Gordon and Larry
- Beaver topped a tree has been taken care by someone at Bowers.
- Leaning tree has been there for a while at Bowers.
- Sinkholes are filled in with boulder and are in good state now.
- Vaughn Hill - n/a
- Rattlesnake is in good state except for any additional damage after storm,
- Invasive by Wattaquadock Hill

11. Volunteer list

- Larry and Naomi wanted to know how to add someone on volunteers list when someone expresses interest to help with trails committee. You have to ask Rich Discheler to get them added and send a nice Thank you letter.
- There have been no new projects to get help from volunteers at the moment.
- Someone should send a Thank you letter with latest updates once a month and ask for their area of interest and ask if they are still interested.
- We should also do more organized projects as we have about 50 people and we have projects where we can have them get started. Teach them how to take care of invasive
- Rebecca and Alice suggested that we can offer them to remove Invasive species if that is something they would like to do.
- Rebecca is working with Terracorps member who is making short clips that will air on Bolton access TV and linking on their YouTube links as people have shown interest in learning about invasive species
- Weed warrior program that is used by SVT would also help with focusing manual removal, document location of weeds, how to identify them and remove and dispose them. They offer a training which educates volunteers on how to tackle weeds.
- We could use QR code where weeds are and also educate people using that.
- Winged Euonymus - complete list of volunteer — most of them were from Steering committee and did not have names next to their email. We need name, email, telephone and address so we can focus on the area where they are close to where we are doing the work
- It would be nice to have profiles with interest, work to do, favorite area to work, etc.

12 Business cards

If anyone has a business card template then we can put it up on HQ page.