

Minutes of the November 2, 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, Naomi Martin

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

1. Bowers Project

Keith, Gordon Wallace, Rebecca and Larry have worked on spreading long tailings at Bowers Springs around Lower Pond. Project is about 90% completed. They used half from this year and everything that was left over from last year. Larry is planning to complete remaining 10% of work next year.

Originally, edging was being placed only in places where reinforcement was needed but, Rebecca has added edges along the other sections to keep foot traffic along the guided path to reduce erosion and allow vegetation to be established along the banks. Larry and Rebecca have observed that some areas are eroded. This will also delineate people to the area where they can interact with water instead of going off edge of trail.

Recurring invasive management - Recurring program to get poison ivy and invasive twice for the season could not be planned this year but some areas near parking lot were taken care of.

Work for parking lot is complete. It is also resurfaced temporarily. People have been giving good feedback and parking on both sides. About 20 cars are easily being parked now.

2. Winged Euonymus pull

Gordon, Naomi, Rebecca and Hemali along with two volunteers met to pull euonymus plants from Rattlesnake area. Now that euonymus are gone, we can easily see the next invasive that should be managed in that area (Buckthorn).

Weed wrenches that were a loan has worked well for this project. Rebecca says that if we plan 1-2 week in advance, we could request to borrow them again in future for other projects. Bob also has an original weed wrench which would be useful in future.

We discussed other properties that needs invasive management. Gould trail has euonymus. Annie-Moore trail has a lot of bitter sweet. We are planning to use uMap to track these and plan to set up regular work parties to control invasive plants.

3. Annie Moore

No new update from Greg so it is assumed that the signs have survived. Naomi notified that she has not seen new trail obstacles at Annie Moore in last week. As per Rebecca no new wildlife cameras have been installed there except the ones installed by Greg to monitor the situation.

4. Schultz Farm

Betsy and Rebecca reported that the meeting to walk Schultz Farm property went well. They learned that trail easement is too close to area where active farming is taking place and is close to the brook. Planning a trail there may lead to issues with flooding in future. Justin Schulz would like to get the easement description modified and easement moved upland and away from water.

Easement was supposed to be 50ft on either side of the brook but that part of property is owned by Justin Schulz. An amendment is needed to avoid trail from going close to this property instead of the CR.

Rebecca is looking into the steps to get an amendment to the trail easement and CR restriction. While Justin's proposal is good and helpful in terms of managing trails but usually any amendment to CR is not taken lightly. One of the items is to discuss this with property owner, but is no clear contact at this point.

5. Powder house Extension Trail to Golden Run Rd

Drew shared a map as a proposal for new trail system. This map shows a trail from Northern part of Powder House that leads to a part where town owns a CR, part of old trail is shown on our map but, than it goes through a private land, at the edge of private land and than after bush whacking you get on one more trail which leads to private property which leads to Golden Run Rd. We discussed these sections. Private land seems to go through Herb Colby's land who has always supported conservation. Herb Colby's father was one of the founders so it might be easy to discuss this possibility.

ConCom likes to monitor the area through one spring season where new trails are proposed before they agree for a new trail. They want to ensure the feasibility of the trail system by monitoring land through all seasons.

Betsy was part of the group that went for a walk for one of the parcels where they wanted to place a CR. That area might be wetland. One of the CRs might be related to endangered species as well.

Drew also brought up that he saw some encroachment into Bolton Conservation Trust property along this area which would need to be investigated as well.

Bob Suggests to reach out to Herb and invite him for a walk. Everyone agrees to set up a plan to walk together and invite Herb.

6. MRTC and MCRT

Larry brought up that there is work going on for section 3 of MCRT. They have scoped out sections with information about gaps, descriptions and maps, etc. They have invited us to add comments from people. Documents are available online for review and any feedbacks are welcome from 11/6-10th. Larry would put together consolidated comments before sending to the committee.

It is quite an ambitious project. They have options to use the areas around tunnel in Clinton. Deadline till November 10th before sending them forward.

This was also publicized to biker's group and most likely via other channels. Larry and Gordon has walked most of the area in Berlin center to 495 junction in Bolton. Trail is overgrown but otherwise it is easy to walk. Send any feedback to Larry and Gordon and they will forward them to the committee.

7. Trailhead and junction signs

Bob has been placing these pretty signs everywhere. They have been spotted at various trails. Philbin Salmon, Gould-white and Welch Pond were seen recently. They are very useful and look nice. we have also seen nicely painted rocks that someone has been placing at various trails and trail junctions. Sign work is still in progress.

8. Trails segmentation maps

Greg measured all the segments. Maps split into segments based on spreadsheet Greg has shared. Plan is to add these on maps and use when new version of guide is printed.

9. Website, Guides, Maps, "how-to"

Trail guides are sold at \$20 each at town hall. You can order using pay pal to be delivered at \$24 or pick it up for \$20. Any mistakes found will be updated in next version. Trust will give them to new members for free as part of membership.

Gordon is working on "How-to" section. Once it is ready, it will be available via the website. Rebecca and Bob would like a USB copy of "How-to" guide as well.

(Listen)

10. New projects. E,G. Wilder Meadow

Gordon would like to get path cleared for Wilder where invasive have taken over so the rest of the trail becomes accessible and broken bridge can be built. Gordon will send an email to get volunteers to help with this project.

ConCom has someone working on these projects as well (Listen)

We should offer Invasive species ID and management practices and walks to since lot of people ask questions about best management. Providing some toolkits in this area would be beneficial and increase awareness about invasive in town.

11. Area Review

Tree warden has not gone to take care of blowdown near pipeline.

Danforth also needs chainsaw work in area away from pipeline.

Moen property - few trees were down. Keith reported that those may have been cleared already.