

Minutes of the January 04, 2021 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Larry Kunz (chair), Hemali Parekh (note taker), Rebecca Longvall, Bob Roemer, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Jeffrey Bryan, Keith Silver, Andrew Schaubhut, Naomi Martin, Bob Johnson

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

1. Storm damage

There was a tree down at Rattlesnake trail when we entered from Lime Kiln area between kiosk and first bridge. Bob who takes care of that portion never goes from that section so it is missed. Powder House Hill about 100 yards from north of pipeline has been cleared by DPW.

2. Powder house Extension Trail to Golden Run Rd

Drew did initial recon walk to see wet spots and has taken pictures. Proposed trail would extend into Colby land. Wetland area that goes behind Harvard Road and converges into stone wall area. There is a big pine tree down along the rock wall. Decent amount of flooding in that area. Water seems to be going under rock wall. Typically water does not go under rock wall but, that is what Drew has observed in this case. Tree does not need to be cleared yet as this is not mapped trail.

Easement runs along the boundary of 189 Harvard Road. Drew was able to find the marker but no flags. There is a small pond where there is flooding. Marker is distinct and easy to see. Drew has finished marking the trail. ConCom recommends watching the area for a year and one spring. Rebecca will go for a walk and take a look at the markers. When we propose the trail, our observation would need to be included along with why the trail through that area when it is wet.

Powder house Hill area - Betsy and Gordon hiked the trail that is from gas pipeline to church recently. There is a marker that says that trail to gas pipeline not maintained but it is very clear that a trail exists. Trail is not marked on Bolton trails map but is distinctly laid out. If that trail falls on church property, we need to check with church. By looking at the trail, it seems like it falls on conservation land and we might be able to add that to the map. Gordon and Betsy have a GPS track of the route.

Pipeline also cuts across town land so, we are allowed to use the Church section as an easement. We are not publicizing that as trail since we should not be doing that without permission. We can use pipeline land that is owned by the Town. Another option would be to move the trail head a few feet north on to Town Land. We discussed if there is a summit to Powderhouse Hill. It seems like the summit is by back area where the trail climbs up. If it is parallel to trail that goes north-south from pipeline then a trail can be made that goes over the summit. It's another good idea to bring up to ConCom after the other trail proposal is presented.

3. Trailhead and junction signs

Gordon and Larry can help Bob with signs. Bob has a number of frames with maps in them. Most of them are trailhead signs and another 20 signless frames in container. It would be best when ground thaws a bit. We get couple of walks with people that have local knowledge on where signs should go. Naomi can help with post and put the signs, Bob has list of what needs to be put in. They can place maps that go over the existing structures.

4. MRTC rail trail discussion.

Their next step is to post consolidated input on their website. Peter Sutton sent an email to Gordon saying that communication did go to Erika. Rebecca also had similar conversation about lack of outreach to town. An email did go out to town and Erika received it but this was not a formal communication. Rebecca had expected much more outreach than what was done. Peter has said that they are still accepting comments. They have not done enough in terms of outreach. ConCom should be notified and towns need to be notified.

Trails in Concord is a large project and was well publicized as opposed to this project.

Larry and Gordon are planning to reach out to state representatives to follow up on this and see that town inputs are taken by this committee and proper outreach is done by them.

5. Trails segmentation maps and updated mileage

Greg, Gordon, Hemali and Drew have updated uMap and added trail segments. Greg has gone back to check distances and correct where needed. We may see additional mileage (from existing 45+ miles) as a result of this. Second addition of trail guide has additional trails and is more accurate as a result of this.

6. Website, Guides, Maps, “how-to”

“How-to” is in progress. Website is updated with latest maps. New maps have all minor changes that came out of segmentation work. 50 more copies of new guides have been purchased to be sold at Town hall. Trail guide is being sold at \$20 and \$24 if you would like it to be delivered.

Any QR code work needs editor access. We need to plan on whom to get access. Rebecca would pass information if someone else can help set it up.

7. Volunteers

We would like to engage volunteers and keep track of them. We need a concrete plan and execute it. Today there is an email list without names.

Hemali is working on a form that can collect volunteer names, emails, address, areas of interest, etc., Hemali showed the example volunteer signup page. This would become a volunteer sign up page on the website where new volunteers will sign up. There is also concern about privacy if data is stored by third party. If we create a page that is password protected and linked to HQ site. We would like to store information locally using some sort of secure form (password protected).

It becomes easy to update If we can export form in excel format then we can store password protected in excel sheet. Rebecca knows about a site called Nature groupie which is used by SVT and other local organizations which allows to track events.

We can use this list to keep in touch with volunteers by sending occasional emails and keeping them interested in Bolton Trail maintenance work.

Everyone liked the review email sent by Gordon. We could send a quarterly email and getting updated volunteer list would be helpful.

Gordon has sent the newsletter which he would like help with in future.

8. Self-Guided walks

Drew developed a nice self-guided walk for new year's walk. Rebecca showed him how to track the number of people that have used QR codes so Drew monitored that there were at least 10 people who walked on New Year's Day which is a decent turn out.

Formal tones when it comes to historical data and have some informal highlights of the area that you enjoy makes it very interesting. Drew has done an excellent job and set the tone for what a self-guided walk should look like.

Story book walk is still up at Fyfeshire. It will be taken down once QR code based walk is set up in that area. Two of the pages are lost most likely due to wind. In spring, there are two from library and from other group who has reached out on what content should go in story books.

9. Hunting report

Blind was in Berlin where SVT allows hunting during the season. This was not on Bolton property. Rebecca suggested the person who reached out to contact SVT. Gordon and Betsy pointed out that this was on the land that is close to the part that falls on Bolton side and the stand was too close to the trail. Gordon and Betsy do not recall that this blind was there the last couple of time that they had walked so, this one is new and too close to the trail.

10. New projects. E.G. Wilder Meadow, Oaks Trail clearance.

We are cleared to work on Wilder property without unintentionally doing something and Gordon and Rebecca would like to also work on Oaks Trail. Oaks is a bit like the trail along the line of Schartner about three years ago where Peach Hill Road was

connected to to Fyfeshire. There is a trail but has not been maintained for a long time. There is multi-flora roses. It goes from Wilder Road to behind Oaks development and down into town owned open space. It could be part of southern section of Bolton Loop trail if anyone is motivated to do this. Rebecca can tell abutters if we plan a date to do this. Picking a month is better to pick instead of specific dates. Trail is mostly marked and it is along stone wall.

11. Big Projects - Bowers, winged euonymus, etc.

We should wait till spring. Once a date is set may be in March, we can request weed whackers. Bittersweet might be easy winter project if you know that exists. Best way to tackle is to cut by hand instead of digging. Digging is also a good idea to irradiate bittersweet. Cutting Multiflora rose is also a good project.

12. Email From Alex Smith to info@boltontrails.org

An email came from a person named Alex Smith which Gordon did not feel comfortable to reply. Rebecca will reply to this email. It seems like the person was trying to be helpful.

Bob suggests to commend the person and invite him to join as a volunteer and help improve trails.

13. Area review

- a. Bower - Sapling is addressed. Norway spruce maintenance requires trimming under the tree and tree on ground is not addressed yet. Brush removal by DPW is still in progress. People or beaver are moving some of the logs that was placed along the trail paths.
- b. Vaughn Hill - Larry went recently but don't remember anything specific. Tree at the top of north peak needs a chainsaw.
- c. Tadmor - Tree across side walk by new volunteer (Tone). He is Dan Gaffney's neighbor. This part is still under development so trail is not yet accepted.
- d. Zink-Northwoods - Private property complain is being corrected by Rebecca. Keep signs on town side of parcel.