

Minutes of the February 1, 2021 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, Greg Matte

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Volunteers data collection form and system

- Hemali showed the form that is created to collect volunteer data. Steve sent feedback via email. Drew, Betsy, Bob and Rebecca also gave feedbacks.
- Gather mobile phone numbers. Interests should be check boxes and there should be an option to select an option to select al.
- Can we offer an unsubscribe link? (future improvement) (Betsy)
- There should be a disclosure that no physical mail would be sent and we do not share data with anyone (Bob). Also show mission statement (Rebecca) Hemali would like to have official wordings for these.
- A form that can be used for event sign up for events.(This plugin offers an option to create event page)
- A list of property to allow volunteers to select the property that they would like with an option to select "I like them all"
- Event section on home page would link to a sign up page for the event.

Recent work

- Trees are cleared at Vaughn Hill. Big trees were felled at north end of Bowers Springs by someone. No one knows who has done this work. Late last year DPW went to clear up some areas, too. Someone had cut the trail instead of clearing the trees about a month ago but, we don't know who that was either. At Bowers Springs, Larry and Gordon did some work along the trail above upper pond and Gordon lost glasses there. There is activity at Bowers which may be caused by beavers.

Guide

- We are now running 3rd printing. Fifty new copies to be picked up and delivered to Elli. Rebecca can help with pick up if necessary. 100 copies are

sold so far. Deb Kotlarz & Associates purchased 20 copies. They give out Trust membership which includes guides with each new house sale.

Signs

- Rebecca and Bob have placed the signs at every place where there was an existing post and kiosk. Gordon and Betsy has offered to help put more maps and signs if they do not require digging posts. Ones that go on the trees can be placed while we wait for ground to thaw. A list of all signs and status was sent to Rebecca by Bob that Rebecca would forward if there are any signs left to do.
- Some of the maps at Rattlesnake need 11 x 17 to be installed and requires hard plastic. Rebecca will get hard plastic.
- Old map on Peach Hill Road on Schartner property and is faded - it is not attached to a post. Rebecca said that it is ok to attach sign to a tree in this case. It is goal to get trail head signs first and then plan for intersections like the ones at Rattlesnakes with old signs. Bob suggests to remove old maps that are from 90s and are outdated. We will take the posts if they are in good shape once ground thaws.

Directions and destinations

- Gordon has made dark and light map signs to show directions which say something like "Powder House this way". Gordon has paint and oils to make new signs for intersections. One of the places that he has in mind is Zink-Northwoods where intersection for Corn Road, Drum Hill Road, etc is confusing. Its a good place to have a sign. Rebecca asked to wait as she is working with home owner in that area to clear up ownership for the CR. Once that is cleared a sign can be placed.

Arrows

- There might be a few places that are missing arrows. Gordon can go to various places where arrows are missing. Rattlesnake by cul-de-sac, TH3 to top of old sugar road area needs arrows to keep people on marked trails. Signs to remind to stay on trail and off private property would also help there as some people let their dogs run in that area.
- Arrows were removed Annie Moore. Greg can help and replace missing arrows again.
- Vaughn Hill and Wilder would benefit by adding more arrows. Wilder is deeded to town now so we can place arrows there. At Keyes Farm the issue of anti-clock wise arrows can't be addressed yet. Some of the rusty trash was found by Drew can clear out but others can be used as a planter. It is not advisable to dig up as there might be more junk under it. Old elevator

wire was found at Keyes Farm just beyond entrance to trail that DPW would be able to dig up. Contractors were supposed to remove it before hand over but they have not done it.

- Drew asked if there is plan to revive the trail from Wilder goose pond trail that used to go to liquor store. There is a narrow strip from the back side of property to Forbush Mill where we can potentially place parking once they are done looking at and finalizing the commercial lot. we could have a future plan to set up a trail that gets to a parking area with 1-2 parking space.

Major projects

- Wilder bridge requires 4" x 6 "X 16' which we don't have at the moment. This will be a July project so funds can come from next fiscal year's budget. We should identify what is needed in the mean time. That project would need someone who can help with a big truck or trailer. In the past Winslow and Larry have helped. We used to make a skeleton and bring it over for bridge. (Bob said that we would need 3 16' full length for the full span bridge to be able to support in the middle). There is no support in the middle as it can be easy to break like Vaughn Hill where a bridge has broken before.
- Oaks (wait until March, but need to tell abutters) Rebecca has told abutters that crew will be out in March. She will move it to April if there is significant snow events in March.
- Extended Powder House Hill Trails - Nothing new to report. Marker found at Harvard Road so now Drew can make a straight line.

Area reviews

- At Bowers, we had lined trails with downed trees which have been moved either by beavers or someone else. It would be good to line the trail again before volunteers are bought in for more work. We should line all trails to delineate traffic to marked trail. This should be an ongoing maintenance for areas that need it,
- Blow down at north end of the pond at Bowers is still there but is not blocking anything but it should be cleared at some point. Caging would also need to be fixed once we can do something. An old tree has fallen in water which we will leave in the water.
- East and west side of the path where someone has created a work around is working for now.
- Plan is to leave the leaning tree that is about 20' above ground and let nature take its turn.

- Downed tree on Vaughn Hill by the summit is gone now. A tree by Hanson Land needs to be removed. Drew thinks that the tree is gone as he walked trail two days ago. Drew also noticed spray paint graffiti on rocks which would require some work.
- poop fairy sign - Is there any interest in putting poop fairy signs? Rebecca will upgrade the dog signage to respond to increased usage of property. However it may not be poop fairy but, she might place some type of temporary signage until problem is reduced. No new problems found on Rattlesnake but Bowers is a dog park and needs signs.

MCRT

- Feasibility plan feedback was taken from people who happened to know about the project. Larry and Gordon are working on reaching John Cronin to see there is any interest to lead effort at government level. Jamie Eldridge was very active for Assabet River rail trail and Bruce Freeman project and actively helped with funding and visibility. Regional projects like these benefit from senator who can direct money from state. There is a chance to connect this with Bolton Loop trail if it can go under 495 bridge (if that plan goes through).
- They will be posting people's input soon.

Wildlife Section

- Jeff sent a link to Cornell's interactive bird song page. Gordon can add a wildlife section if there is interest in a page about wildlife (A section where wildlife cams, animal tracks, birds and trees identification resources can be made available).
- Greg also sent a video of wildlife that can be included on website with wildlife section.
- Other options are tree identification, birds and other wildlife related information that someone would like to share.