

Minutes of the April 05, 2021 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

volunteer sign up form and survey - Hemali

Email has been sent out to volunteers to update contacts using new volunteer signup form. We have about 10-12 volunteers so far. Few suggestions were made during meeting.

- Send second reminder email with a date by which to update to encourage more signups.
- Add volunteer list page to HQ page and share password to view with group.
- It would be nice if we could generate a volunteer distribution list using this list.

Self-Guided walks - Rebecca and others

Houghton Farm self-guided walk with QR codes had great feedback. List to signup is still open for other self-guided tours if anyone wants to help with it. Rebecca describes this as a good winter project. She will not be working on this during spring and summer but will pick it up during winter. Format for Self-guided walks was discussed. Use references from town plans and history of Bolton, history of how property was used in past, how it was acquired and information about any geological features, natural features, etc., to give the whole picture in the walk descriptions.

This can easily become a group project if first person writes a first draft and others help with updates, create QR codes, and anything else need to create these walks.

Larry has done research about Bowers and has good amount of information about Bowers. If Larry starts the first drafts, others would help to get that completed. Larry said that he will give it a try. Welch Pond tour was started and can be completed. Gordon will help with QR code if anyone needs help.

Gordon brought up that he has added "you are here" to the map used for Fyfeshire self-guided walk.

Trail head signs and posts - Bob, Gordon, Rebecca

Gordon took a large number of maps with list of where to place the signs and has placed most of them. Only the ones that needed post are left to do.

Danforth may need a post to place a sign. Also entrance is not very clear. Tree near entrance may need to be trimmed to make entrance clear. Greg told Rebecca that property owners of Laurel drive called him about the “you are here” sign. He would prefer arrows but not “you are here” sign. That path is close to their property. Rebecca said that we may not have easement to place a sign there. It might be a temporary access as property owners were ok to allow access to the trail but not to have sign close to their yard. Rebecca is planning to talk to them and explain that the goal of sign is to keep hikers on the trail and not wander to private property. She will share the outcome.

Drew proposed if we could use wood chips to show where the trail begins. Rebecca will check property map. It is ok to do as long as we have right of way and resource area is away from that area.

Trail Marking and clearing

Horse Ring Trail - Rebecca, Larry, Gordon, others

Trail markings were added and some of the bushes were cleared so now anyone can find the trail for Horse Ring Trail. First part of the trail has a huge dead tree. We will need to decide if trail should go around it. Rebecca suggested to go around it.

Trail from Horse ring field, from school to cell tower is missing trail markers. Rebecca, Gordon, Larry and others recently walked the trail and have captured GPS tracks. We would like to walk a couple of times and capture GPS track to average it. This ends up at old railroad bed. Larry suggested that we should do an end to end walk with clippers in future. Rebecca says that saplings in that area should be allowed to grow.

Oak Trail

Rebecca, Gordon, Betsy and Drew went to work in that area. Rebecca had sent a mail to the residents stating that volunteers will be out on trail for trail work this month. Rebecca has marked the trail. Gordon and Betsy put arrows in the land that is close to Nancy Case's property. There are multiflora roses in that area. Drew will organize a work party on April 10 at around 1:30 p.m. Multiflora roses are well established in that area and needs weed whacker but Gordon and Betsy would go early to clear winged Euonymus.

Goose Pond Trail at Wilder

This trail is missing arrows. Greg is planning to fix this as a boy scouts project. Greg is planning this project since it would be safe for boy scouts in terms of covid.

Forbush Mill - Rebecca and others

Rebecca has flagged preliminary trail from access Road to Forbush Mill Road for Taggart property. Property line for access road needed to be confirmed. Area by the access road is steep so Rebecca suggests to place a bridge over the stream where there is currently a

fallen tree over Forbush Mill. It is not very safe as a trail. Concept is to connect to parking, existing trail and Taggart property.

Bowers

We discussed how to restore the edging at Bowers near pond. Larry would help but wanted to know if there is an easy way. Line it now and increase public education to encourage hikers/trail users to maintain and help manage that area for now. Larry asked if it can be tied down so it does not get moved. Rebecca says that If they are moved by beavers, there might be not much that can be done to stop it. Rebecca has also discussed this with high school volunteers to use that concept. If this initiative works, it can be used at other properties, too. Additionally, Tom Denney camp can work on this project. Larry asked if long u-bolt might work to secure it. Bob suggested that drilling through using rebar the 18" u-bolt might work and can be easy to set up. Rebecca will bring this up to ConCom meeting.

Larry shared a picture of a large tree that had toppled over near the trail at Vaughn Hills not too far from the entrance. Trail goes under the tree. Bob said that it does not seem like this will fall. it is a large tree so moving the tree would require a lot of effort. He recommends to leave the tree as it is. It will take years before this tree comes down. There are other blow downs at Bowers, too as per Larry. Share photo on HQ but not to share with public.

Construction projects

Gordon asked if the scouts are building the bridge over the brook at Wilder. Project has not started yet. Gordon and Larry are interested to get started on that project. Since It's replacing existing bridge, ConCom has already approved this.

16' piece of wood is needed for this bridge which would be longer than what we typically use. We need 3 - 16' 4 by 6. As per inventory last year, there is 24 planking as per last year's inventory and 24 pieces of composite decking.

Larry, Bob ad Gordon will meet at Wilder on Wednesday at 9 a.m. tp go over inventory. Question came up if the trust will help pay for this bridge. It would be good project to start before overgrowth.

Invasive species and weed warrior training with the Terra Corps member.

There is a program on April 14 to learn about invasive plants by Terracorps members called "Invasive Plant Training and Workday at Bowers Springs". You can sign up on nature groupie. Hemali has interest in pulling garlic mustard. Which can be done between now and end of June.

Wattaquadock Hill, Fyfeshire and Welch Pond all have garlic mustard. Additionally, it would be good to add a list of invasive and where to find them in the uMap.

Area reviews

- Bowers - Larry would like to clear the blowdown near cage If possible. We would like to lift and move it on trail to mark trail. Rebecca will take a look at the blowdowns by the pond. We don't need to pull away cage. Make sure to use vegetable oil when using chainsaw near water.
- Dead pine - DPW might be able to help but the large 30' tall tree might not come down soon.
- Vaughn Hill - blowdown is already discussed. Rebecca will go and review graffiti.
- Bob took care of the trees that were down at Rattlesnake
- Vinger-Venable - 3 trees down. It will be few hours worth of work.
- Danforth Brook from Keyes Farm - Drew asked if anyone has discussed the access to Hudson part of land. Rebecca will discuss this with officer from Hudson to see if anything can be done. There might be a work party from new volunteer.