

Minutes of the July 12, 2021 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Larry Kunz (chair), Hemali Parekh (note taker), Bob Roemer, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Andrew Schaubhut, Rebecca Longvall, Cynthia Ayotte, Bob Hatch

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Volunteers list

Hemali showed the shared volunteer list page. We have 22 volunteers. Event Registration page is also in progress. Gordon would like if we can also show events on the events page. Currently there are not that many events listed there. Gordon has asked to reach out Rich and get existing mailing list updated.

Horse compatibility - Emily and Cynthia with Robert and Stephanie

Presentation and proposal for the Bartsch Connector

Cynthia presented the presentation and proposal for Bartsch Connector with us. Main takeaways were the materials that can be used to build . Bob Hatch who has been working on a few projects with other organizations, shared details about materials like Triax.

Triax works well for the trail where ground is wet, muddy and unstable. Triax is environment friendly and Geosynthetic product to stabilize ground. It is ABA stable material when used with 1” faceted crushed stone it can handle weight without sinking in. Bob has used this in Hubbardston project where its used on wheelchair accessible trail. It comes in 1/8” thick and 13 feet wide roll which is easy to cut into smaller widths. No soil compression and water flows through it. Rebecca asked if this is used in a resource area. Bob said that he works with conservationists and product has been used in mucky area before working with conservationist. He also mentioned that he has been working with Audubon Society.

Gordon and Larry have been on site to check and measure the distances with mud at the site. Map that shows “line of bridges and boards” and parts with mud are mostly in Harvard. Area in Bolton is very small. Cynthia has reached out to Harvard Conservation but have not heard back. Support from Harvard equestrians would help expedite this process.

We discussed that Held Trail has many different areas. Beaver dam was breached but nothing much can be done there. Held Trail is also steep compared to Bartsch Connector.

“Stream crossings” - Cynthia brought up two running streams. Bob proposed to use FRP technologies as wood is not ideal. Wood becomes slippery and breaks which requires maintenance. FRP is used for decks. Surface would have grading with

Geotech and pea stone. It has FRP beam instead of 4 x6 wood. It costs more but lasts long time. Bob Hatch has installed a 16' x 16' bridge in 2 hours. Interlocking pieces and covering with pea stone installation as well. It can handle 2000 lb/sq.ft. This product is less slippery, water permeates through it and keeps surface usable in winter and wet conditions.

One brook needs 12' crossing and other one is 30' crossing. All railings are HDPE as well which is safer and not slippery. Templeton boardwalk was \$60 a foot. Audubon Concord project was about \$50-55 per square feet. Overall it costs more compared to wood but lasts very long time which makes it less expensive.

Larry asked if there is an estimate how much material would be needed. Bob would need two weeks to write up a proposal. Rough estimates from Gordon is that for 30' x 4' wide bridge cost is about \$9000. Both Triax and FRP system can be installed by volunteers. Bob can show how to this to volunteers. Additionally, horses can be used to carry load. Bob has 2 ponies. Cynthia is also interested in helping to raise funding and request for grants for these projects. She said that horses can be used to transport material on site. Bob has ponies that are rented for projects like these.

Trail head signs - Bob, Rebecca, Gordon

Bob and Rebecca are getting signs ready to be installed. Only 2 left to be done. Both signs are laminated but waiting for response from neighbors. Other signs are ready to go. Gordon and Rebecca has files to find the location for these signs.

Current status list can be found on the website. Gordon shared the link which needs to be updated. Most of the existing posts and the ones that are hung from tree have been updated. An inventory needs to be taken for the material that is left.

Map updates

Maps will be updated online if there are new property maps that are available like Taggart property. Physical guidebook will not get updated until 2023. Brianna has been updating maps as she works on Taggart. Rebecca said that we are waiting for two neighbors who needs to move their personal items to private property.

Big Projects

- Forest Legacy program application is due.
- Forbush Mill trail has been mapped and Taggart land has been mapped using existing cart path as ConCom did not want additional loop. Cart path is cleared but trail needs to be lined with downed logs to help guide along the path. Brianna has been working on this trail. Gordon and Brianna will meet and discuss process to help organize this work.

- Scenic River and Conservation property signs are required to be installed at Taggart and Forbush Mill trail.
- Oaks and Schultz Farm - Andrew did some work and Gordon has put markers. Anyone who would like to help can clear path through CR. Debris, etc has been cleared and addressed.

It was suggested that we should invite Brianna to a meeting and have her give an update.

- Wilder - Wetland resource area needs to be taken care of. There needs to be increased budget or an article for following year. We need to walk with weed whacker to go to existing trail. This work won't happen until spring but if someone wants to tackle wall of vegetation, weed whacker would help. Brush Hog is at DPW. It is running fine.
- Bowers - Bittersweet and poison ivy needs to be isolated and controlled. Larry is planning to coordinate a work party for this effort during last week of July.
- VaughnHill - Water bars need to be redone along Woodside Trail. Someone proposed to help and was invited to meet and make a proposal but they did not join. It would be useful to walk with him and understand the proposal also to ensure that everyone is discussing the same area (North Peak). It's a big project.

Table at Backyard Bolton

Andrew suggested to have a table and sell guidebooks. Drew can help for one of the three dates. Larry offered to help. Drew can help set up if someone is volunteering for 21st. Drew suggested to offer stickers, bag of trail mix, etc to attract the crowd and help with trail book sale.

Area Reviews

- Larry and Gordon might tackle rainforest at Vinger-Venable one of the days.
- There might be more work needed due to rain.