

Minutes of the June 07, 2021 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Update after Trust AGM

Gordon, Betsy and Drew provided updates for the trust annual meeting. It was a short meeting. Gordon gave a talk about various projects that Trails committee has been working on. Projects like QR codes and guidebook were highlighted. Drew made a nice poster that can be used for other events. Drew took everyone for a hike in Town Common and then they voted for the Trust. Last year, camp was six weeks long and about 600 kids attended. There is a high demand this year, too. They met with new people who were interested to become a volunteer. A woman who is equestrian and her parents have experience in building and maintaining bridges and crossings was interested to volunteer. Gordon said that they have asked them to sign up via website. They might be able to help us.

Recent acquisitions

Keith Myles property on Bare Hill Road and Robert Pace property are the two new acquisitions by the trust. It is not clear if trail easement is finalized, There are also other projects in progress.

Invasive management

We are planning to use uMap to track invasive plants. There is already a symbol for invasive plants. We would like to get an ongoing project to manage invasive plants.

Volunteer sign up system - Hemali

Hemali ran into a block on how to store volunteer data from event page. She is working on a solution for events sign up. We would like to remove any duplicates and create a mailing list as well.

Trail Maps within areas

Bob is already doing working on trail maps. Most trailheads are covered by now. There is no trailhead sign at Houghton Farms and since there is no good way to hang a sign, this area needs a post to display a trail map.

A list to track would be helpful for this work. List can live on HQ page. Houghton Farm needs to be added to the spreadsheet as it is not done yet. It was suggested to transition this spreadsheet to Drew's master list and add signs and print it out.

Hemali brought up waterproof copy paper that is being sold at REI. Using a paper like that for maps would be nice if we can fund it. Boy Scouts use waterproof foldable maps. We could use such paper if we can raise donations from either trails committee or sites like "<https://www.trailforks.com/>"

Intersection maps can be started. Ask Rebecca if she has to still print and laminate them. Maps have been sent to Rebecca. Bob has a list that was done about 18 months ago that he will send it over.

Self-guided Tours

QR codes were not working. QR code reading program is a free program. Redirects for QR codes created by this free program expire if not used for a while. Rebecca reprinted and re-laminated and Gordon has reinstalled them so new QR codes are working now. QR codes at Annie Moore are not dynamic so they would still work. Drew can write one for Powder House trail as he has gathered information for the hike he led. Larry might start working on Bowers Springs as he has some historical information about this property. Bob put up a pdf describing field stone querying and Gordon has added that to the website.

We also discussed that Bob knows and finds out about some of the history of Bolton that historical commission might not have. For example East End Road on 1830s map, sheep funnel - A funnel where they send sheep — it used to be a meadow but not anymore. Bob's diagram has more information than Ester Whitcomb's book references.

Rona has added a new metal sign about Fyfeshire that we should take a picture and put it on website as a pdf.

Drew asked about Tower foundation and summit at Wattaquadock Hill. Dave Nicewicz only remembers that there was a tower when they were young. No one knows when it was taken down. It might be used as fire tower. Either forest service or fire department might have history.

Major projects

- Bowers rebar vs wattle (Map 3) - Larry and Rebecca
Rebars will need to be redone. Small tree segments with rebar would not be safe to use. Wattle logs are ecologically safe and Town might be able to pay for them. Applying for a state grant might help with this work.

- Forbush Mill area has several potential projects. Gordon sent a map with details.
- Rebecca sent an email about a project with intern with funding from Wild and Scenic River. We can help if we are available. We can invite intern to next meeting and present and explain the project to us.
- Woodside Drive Trail - Paul Mitchell, Winslow Green and Cynthia are working on this. Rebecca has asked to redesign and make a formal proposal ready to present. Proposal will be needed for BCT and land owners. We should reach out to Rebecca and Cynthia that next steps are clear. Design for bridge needs to be very solid. We should also have clear standards that can be adapted for future bridges. Larry suggested that we should walk with Paul and understand what he is planning to build. Do we need to reroute the trail? Was there an erosion that needs to be addressed? Would we need to bring in gravel or anything else to the area? Basically scope out the project before it starts.

Painted Rocks discussion

Rebecca has said that the response is reasonable.

Area Reviews

- Dead pine at Bowers - We are watching it. Nothing needs to be done.
- Wire drain - Drain management will decide and handle that.
- Bridge issues - Raised by Cynthia
- Keyes Farm - No arrows are placed in anti-clockwise direction.
- Wilder - Check with Greg if arrows are done at Wilder.