

Minutes of the October 04, 2020 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

• **Equestrians**

Cindy has sent an update that they will be presenting a proposal to ConCom this month.

• **steering committee email survey results**

We only have few people who no longer want to be part of the steering group. Chris, Gordon Wallis and Brendon did not respond. Alexis and Naomi has asked to be removed. We will send an email to Rich to update the list and consolidate to one mailing list instead of two. Jeff Bryan would like to continue.

Volunteer form gets submitted more than once, providing a feedback when a form is submitted successfully. Also when an email is getting added twice, provide feedback that email already exists.

• **Major projects prioritization**

Gordon sent a survey to prioritize major projects. They are listed below in the order of survey results. We will focus on top three projects first.

- Trailhead and junction maps
- Taggart
- Bowers
- Wilder
- The Oaks
- Extensions to Powder House Hill
- Schultz Farm Trail
- Bolton Loop Trail South
- Master file for easements, conservation land (town and trust), informal agreements, etc.
- Horse Ring Trail
- Other (e.g., update the sign inventory? [Sign Inventory Database](#):

▸ **Trailhead and junction maps**

- Gordon has shared a spreadsheet that shows which maps need to be installed. We discussed on how to schedule work day for this project. Someone can take a lead and send an email to volunteers. Bob suggested to tackle first 6 and then go down the list to next group of 6. This is a good time of year to do this project before ground freezes. Gordon has proposed October 23 for this project.

• **Taggart**

- Temporary signs are placed on Still River Trail at Taggart property. Rebecca will install 4x4 for permanent signs. Clean up is required as there is a small area that

was hit by storm. Larry would help with cleanup. Rebecca is going to lead a walk on October 21.

- Gordon can start working on map for Taggart as property #17. Rebecca will send history of land, information of the parcel and other details for map. Maps are easy to change as long as its not printed. Once we add them to trail guide then changes are difficult.

- **Bowers**

- Invasive management plan: A couple of sessions are done but job is very big so we need to have a better plan. Most volunteers do not want to work due to poison Ivy. Area around lower pond is highest priority due to bittersweet. Trails across the meadow can be made accessible using brush hog. Use volunteer list if there are a few dates in mind for work party. Follow up a flyer giving a brief summary. This can be printed and posted to invite more volunteers. Rebecca can publicize agenda to town website as well.

- **Master file for easements, conservation land (town and trust), informal agreements, etc.**

- This file should be organized by property and updated with recent *acquisitions*. *An organized version might already exist in the Open Space Plan. It has been updated until 2017. Betsy has updated it with some of the recent acquisition. Trust need to review and update it. Rebecca will send this to Gordon so he can format*

- **Website and Maps**

- Trail problem reporting - Gordon, Hemali and Steve

Gordon has added a form to make it easier to report a problem and allows to add photos and provide a feedback. Form does not confirm email address. Gordon is trying to make email confirmation work before making this page publicly available. Current form sends an email to info@boltontrails.org. New form will upload photo(s) to the website but would not send it via email.

- **Self Guided routes**

- There will be a sign at the trail head and will be publicized on town website. Please let Rebecca know if you are interested to help with this.

- **Walks and events**

- There will be a walk led by Rebecca on October 23rd.
- Master plan committee meeting is planned on October 17 at Sawyer school from 2 4 p.m. to get input from community.

- **Area reviews**

Vaughn Hills - is in good state

Bowers - DPW is planning to take down dead pine. Tree warden is needed for a large a double tree down across the trail from south west part to north point. As you go to Bartsch land and north meadows brush hog work is needed.

We discussed about hiring goats as Laura Kischitzhad mentioned the idea to Larry. To hire goats, you need to make a fenced area and there is no clear idea on time needed to clear certain area. New Hampshire co-op uses sheep which can be another option.

Zink-Northwoods - Drew would be able to help on Wednesday to clear a new downed tree.

Century Mills - Trust and developer will take care of the property.

Gould-White - Emily has said that she was going to help clear the rain forest. Down tree there is too thick for hand saw but it is on ground so not a major event. Steep area of the trail needs work. We discussed if that should be re-routed.

Welch Pond: Multiple people at Sunset Ridge wanted to help take care of the trail. It was not clear if they wanted to help or did not want anyone else to come there to maintain it.

Wilder - Greg might go out as another cut is needed. We may hear from Jim Henderson by early November.

Rattlesnake - Rebecca and Bob have discussed about two large oaks. It is better to wait until they come down. Rebecca trimmed back witch hazel saplings.