

## *Minutes of the September 13, 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, Paul Mitchell, Cynthia Ayotte, Bob Hatch*

*Chairperson - Larry*

*Note taker - Hemali*

### **• Water bars, etc for Vaughn Hills near Woodside Drive. Guest appearance by Paul Mitchell**

Paul Mitchell presented that he has recognized the flooding problem at Vaughn Hills property near Woodside Drive. He would like to help to improve it.

First part of trail is an easement on private property that is commonly flooded and becomes a stream in spring. It's eroded badly and needs water bars to stabilize the trail. Paul proposed 4 by 4 or 6 by 6 pressure treated limber to put a water bar.

Second area is before junction to about 20 yards on conservation land. People have been walking at the edge of the trail when flooded. It gets worst as we wait and area has to handle more storms. Paul proposes water bars there as well. He will write up a proposal and send it to get approval.

The other area that was discussed which already has water bars but is not effective so once we have better understanding of how water bars should be installed, it would be good to improve that area.

Bob Hatch suggested to look into Triax material as another option for the second section. Triax would work well with both areas. Any new material like Triax would need approval from ConCom. Common practice is to use material from site like rocks, logs, etc. Pressure treated wood has been used before in other places. Private owners are responsible for maintaining the easement part of the trail so communication with them is required before making any modifications to that part of the trail. Long tailings has been used as a material in other areas which is donated by ClearSummit.

Paul also mentioned that a tract hauler dumper can be used to carry material over a yard and would not damage trails.

Besides that Rebecca will need to review area, compare it with the proposal.

### **• volunteers list and registration system**

New volunteers have signed up since last month.

A lot of people took the QR codes during Backyard Bolton event but not many signed up to be a volunteer.

We discussed and agreed to send an email to steering committee mailing list and confirm that everyone would like to stay on steering committee. Members on steering committee should attend a reasonable number of meetings.

Everyone on registration page.

- **Equestrians- Cynthia, Emily - routes, priorities, structures.**

Bob has done research to estimate cost. Cynthia mentioned that they plan to do a pilot on two areas. They took a look at total 7 acres, 4 at Vaughn Hills and 2 at Vinger-Vannable using Triax material. Cindy will send an email with price estimates. Cindy would like to pilot four of them to show that they are committed. Rebecca mentioned that proposal for town land needs to be reviewed and approved by Concom and land owners also need to review and approve for any part of trail that is on private land. Rebecca can help informally to discuss with ConCom before submitting the formal form.

Cynthia should send information to Rebecca before 23rd so she can discuss informally at meeting on 23rd September and Cynthia can present formally at October 3rd meeting.

- **Major projects**

- Trail head and junction maps

Maps are at Bob's barn, Gordon and Betsy have been away. Larry will send a work party agenda for this work.

- Wilder

Someone is needed to mow the field. Rebecca is waiting to hear to get an estimate from Jim Henderson. This section get overgrown very fast. There was work done in April. Frequent weed whacking is needed.

- Taggart

Rebecca will install four signs next week before it is open to public. Gordon can start working on the map once Rebecca shares historical information and extent of area available for trails.

- The Oaks

Larry and Gordon has done some work this month. Gordon put polka dot tape markings at the point where it gets too close to Nancy Cove's land. Trail would avoid Nancy's land. A tree that came down in 2008 has been cleared now. Follow polka dot markers to help clear trail.

- Bowers

Large group of volunteers are needed to help get more invasive clearing work done. A walk through with couple of people to prioritize work so we don't miss any large area when we set up work party. Couple of large trees are down at the lower end of west meadow. Wattles at the water edge are doing great.

- Extensions to Powder House Hill area

Drew brought up that we have been waiting for fall when we can present to ConCom as we have now monitored the area through a year and nothing major has been found.

- Forest Legacy program

It has been submitted in addition to Wild and Scenic River program. Three parcels from town - Houghton Farm property, Taggart property and one other property has been submitted. If grant is awarded, grant will pay for free. Other parcels have CR. New maps would be needed for Houghton property. This process takes time so we would know by spring.

- Website and maps - Gordon asked if there are any suggestions for improvements.

- Self Guided routes - Let Rebecca know if you are interested in working on self-guided tours.

- **Walks and events**

Please email Rebecca If anyone has any idea for September. Also notify Rebecca two weeks prior to event so she can publicize on town website and send notification emails.

Taggart was suggested for guided walks. It was suggested that one of us can share guided walk events on Next Door App and Facebook app by keeping a flier for current month and next month. Trail committee members can share but officially town does not share information in social media sites.

- **Backyard Bolton**

There was good turn out at Backyard Bolton event. Many people purchased trail guides. Total 25 guides were sold. This was a good way to engage with community members. We received comments like trees are down at a property or where they like to go for a hike, etc. There was a lot of interest in equestrian riding on the trail as well as mountain biking.

### **Area reviews**

- Bartsch connector trail - There is a tree down.
- One tree down at north point of lower pond and other tree down at other entry path by parking lot.
- Invasive maintenance across Bowers has been ongoing. 90% of property needs similar efforts.
- Trail entrance blocked by trust due to request from land owner.
- Bridge issues are already raised by Cynthia.