

Minutes of the November 01, 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, Emily Hatch, Cynthia Ayotte

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

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

Cindy presented and proposed 5 crossings at ConCom meeting. Next step is to do official filing to get this approved. Five foot bridges with handrails will be proposed. A concern was raised about what will be done if the handrail breaks and someone falls. Cindy checked the height. AMC guidelines is that handrails are needed for 3 foot drop. Since the drop is only 2 feet for proposed bridges, they will change to a five feet wide bridge with a curb instead. Once they get approval from ConCom, they would like to apply for MassTrails grant. Wetland surveys are not needed for initial filing for MassTrails grant. Cindy checked winners from last three years. Harvard was able to get \$1300 funding to build a shed. There have been a few awards to build bridges for other towns so it is possible to get this grant. Cindy and Emily will need to file a “notice of intent” form for crossing over wetland for ConCom. A “Notice of intent” form is needed for each property. All bridges for one property go on one and so forth for the other properties.

Larry had started an application for a 2020 Mass Trails grant for Bowers parking lot but did not apply since application due date was too close. Timeline to file is February 1. Cindy is planning to add more than 5 bridges for the presentation for ConCom and submit them to MassTrails. That way we get funding for all bridges that are done that year.

Rebecca suggested to make sure to phrase all crossings as one project so all would be funded. Giving an overarching project name like “Bolton Connectivity” and “multimode” to cover bikers, walkers and equestrians.

In other news, Public Ways Safety Committee has put signs about horse safety around the town. They have approval from police chief and DPW.

- **Major projects — limited to top 3 priorities**
- **Trailhead and junction maps**
 - We had a successful morning with a group of volunteers. Everyone enjoyed digging holes, putting posts and attaching signs. We have 3 more posts and 6 more maps. We are limited by posts but can plan another meeting and get those posts installed. We discussed plans to meet on Saturday at Town Common. There are two signs to go at Wilder, one at Danforth or one at Welch Pond.
 - Rebecca has ordered for four more and DPW will cut them once they are picked up. One 12 foot piece of 4 x4 gives us 4 posts.
 - Rebecca has posts for “No motorized vehicles” and posts for Taggart property in future.
- **Taggart**
 - Gordon has made map for Taggart and updated it online. Also, Brianna had put signs for plants and other interesting features which had QR codes but they do not work properly because the subscription to the QR code company has expired. Gordon has given new QR codes. Updated signs have been prepared by Gordon and reviewed by Rebecca/. Now we can laminate and replace signs. Gordon will get accurate measurements soon. Most of the descriptions direct to our website but in some cases its other sites like Nashua River site.
 - Rebecca will print out maps and signs will be printed, laminated and posts will be placed.
 - Rebecca has reached out to Lancaster to get a discussion going to in future get a loop trail that would go through Lancaster.
- **Bowers**
 - Invasive management efforts: 5-10% has been done through volunteer efforts. Volunteers are not comfortable working with poison ivy.
 - Next steps to look into hiring goats. One of the two volunteers gave name of Connor Nagle. Larry has reached out and waiting to get the pricing based on area.
 - Next steps for Larry are to also prioritize areas there so we can plan volunteer times for whom
 - There is a walk planned on Sunday, November 7 by author Sarah Adams Pyne, who has written a story walk. Rebecca, Gordon and

Larry are planning to gather and install story walk before the walk for Wednesday afternoon.

- Flyer for story walk is posted on town website. Cindy will post on social media.
- Is DPW planning to spruce up entry/exit as there is fair amount of erosion? Doing this before winter would be good. Rebecca will take a look and ask them to do this work.
- **Sign Inventory Database**
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP_zk)
 - Database with signs needs to be updates. Maps need to be added and other signs need to be updated as well.
 - Either volunteers sign up for properties so they can be updated sooner or each one on committee takes an area near us and updates images.
 - We have placed new signs and maps but they have not been added to the inventory.
 - This also can be made into a manageable list which can be divided to each person.
- **Website and Maps**
 - Layout - We might want to consider new theme. Gordon is nervous as some of the things might even break if we switch theme. Taking screenshots and sharing them to pick out new theme. We have also seen limitations to this theme.
 - Problem reporting page - Validating confirmation email is not working with current theme. Gordon has asked one of his friends to see if he can make it work.
 - Larry suggested if we can reduce COVID pop up and limit to home page. Gordon says that if it comes up on other pages then there is a bug.
 - Walks and events - Rebecca
 - Rebecca will lead a walk on Tuesday afternoon on November 23 at 3 p.m. at Danforth Conservation area.
 - Bower Springs story walk at November 7 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Area Review**
 - <umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/anonymous-edit/208600:n6ETPGWLnMDcac23Wovwb5y3YtE>

- Rebecca added information about a tree at Vaughn Hill as someone sent an email about it. Rebecca will try to get to it in next week. Cindy will take a look if she can take care of that one.
- Bowers has a few things marked, but are all known including bridges are discussed by Cindy. Larry will go and review downed trees so if any of them needs to be cleared can be taken care before winter.
 - Jim Henderson is done with Bowers and Butternut. He has done quite a lot at Bowers. He has not done anything at Butternut since last few weeks.
- Larry and Gordon cleared some of the trees at Gould-White but there seem to be new ones there.
- Entrance to Fyfeshire at Peach Hill Road shows oversized branches which need to be trimmed. Cindy does not think that there is any branch at this point.
- Rattlesnake - Bob Horton trail
 - Two large oaks are leaning against a third large oak which will come down once these two will come down. Bob will take care of them once they are down.
 - Over last two weeks Bob has cut the Lime Kiln field of invasive plants. Bob will have Native Plant Trust set up another group of French Gingsen for next year. They will set them up during January so we can plant in July.
- Annie Moore. Greg sent an email that more trail markers are taken and need to be replaced. Also there are four trees that need to be cleared which he is planning to take care of.
- Gordon has done some more work at the Oaks. He has a good route for trail near Nancy Case's land. It will need chain saw to clear some of the trail.