

Minutes of the December 06, 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, Cynthia Ayotte

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Volunteer Waivers

- All volunteers will be required to sign a waiver (as you typically would for any other volunteer opportunity). Town HR gave the language as there is a similar document present for all other sites. Rebecca requested all volunteers to fill out the form, sign and email to her. Form will stay in the office.
- Everyone that volunteers for the trails would also be asked to sign the waiver to be authorized to volunteers. We may need to make it available on the website and send to the trail volunteers group. Rebecca emailed two documents to us, one is waiver to volunteer and the other is about photography.
- We discussed this in more details. Final outcome is that all of us to fill out the form/s and send to Rebecca. New volunteers would be required to sign up before they can volunteer and are added to volunteer list. We will keep copies available to sign at future work parties.

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

- Mass Trails grant is due by February 1. Project needs approval by ConCom before it can be submitted for the application for grant. Cynthia has been working to improve document before submitting for meeting on December 21. After ConCom approves the project, it will have to be submitted to DEP.
- She has applied for nine bridges under this project. Annie Moore boardwalk, bridges on Zinger, Wilder and Vaughn Hills are part of this application.
- Gordon brought up that the boardwalk on Zinger property follows that route for a reason. Cindy will go with GPS to confirm that it is not on private property. Gordon and Rebecca offered to help as it is hard to confirm even with GPS.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities.

- Trailhead and junction maps
 - Gordon reported that two more maps are ready for Welch Pond but we shouldn't do anything until response from neighbors. Bob also has a couple that can't be installed yet.
- Taggart Point of interest signs
 - QR codes have been updated and language has been altered for the signs put by Brianna at Taggart.

- Bowers
 - Bittersweet - Rebecca reminded that early winter is good time to have a winter work party to cut the vine then pull it out of the vegetation.
 - Larry also reached out to New Grange Farm about goats for poison ivy and bittersweet removal. There is also an organization that does at industrial scale. Goats stay in an electric fence to prevent them from escaping as well as protect from dogs. Larry is also looking into time needed to clear certain area. Other option is New Hampshire co-op that rents sheep. Recommendation is to take care of invasive three times a year so we need to think about attacking them from budget and planning point.
 - Rebecca mentioned that budget is already submitted for FY 2023 but we should plan for FY2024. We can still look into the fund and if there is a way to get for additional time in this area.

Sign Inventory Database:

- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8lOifP_zk)
- We will send pictures from each property to Drew and he will update the table. Some signs are already done. Newly installed maps and direction signs and signs that are replaced would need to be updated.
- Larry, Gordon, Hemali, Drew and Greg will help to get the pictures of all of these properties. Gordon will take Danforth and Keyes Farm, Larry would take care of Bowers, Greg will take care of Annie Moore and Drew will take care of Powder House.
- **Website, Maps and trail guide**
 - Gordon's friend Greg has helped to resolve the confirmation email when someone reports an issue they found. Gordon shared how that form works with us.
 - Last week, website was locking out Gordon when he was trying to work on website. Dan Senny responded that there have been attempts from amazon cloud and other hosted space on the website. Attempts have been stopped by Amaranth but Gordon gets locked out because of this. Those attempts are failing due to wrong password. Gordon has created new user for him since that must have been leaked.
 - Guide - Gordon started making 2023 version of guide so we can include Taggart property soon. There are still some current ones if anyone wants to get them from Trust website. They can either be mailed or pick up in person from Town Hall once you pay online.
 - New version of guide should also show the horse trails that Cindy is getting improved. We can start planning for the loops that are ok now or would be ready to be used by horses once bridges are in place by the time next version of guide comes up.
 - Winchendon has trail signs for horse riders if there are trails specifically for horses. Lincoln has signs for mountain bikes which is another nice feature that can be added.

- Taggart easement - Rebecca spoke with Lancaster to get access through backside of the cemetery. They gave permission so now we are waiting to hear from private owners to the backside of parcel.
 - Someone was riding a motorized dirt bike on Peach Hill Road. This is not allowed.
 - Layout - We may not need the new theme as update is working
- **Walks and events - Rebecca**
 - Next trail walk is at Gould-white on December 20 at noon.
- **Area Reviews**
- umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/anonymous-edit/208600:n6ETPGWLnMDcac23Wovwb5y3YtE
 - Bowers - Margins near north end have been cleared and others have been done as close as Jim Anderson could go. Larry will double check a couple of trees that most likely are cleared. Beach erosion is serious but needs more discussion. Rebecca suggests to line the area with logs for now. We can't really plant new vegetation around urban dams. ConCom will need to finalize but after that we might have to remove some vegetation along the edge.
 - Vaughn Hills - Drew has cleared some of the areas. Gordon and Larry were planning to go and clean up others.
 - New trail volunteer at Wattaquaddock Hill Road is helping to maintain trail but not interested to join steering committee.
 - Multiple people at Sunset Ridge wanted to help look after the trail. Gordon got the vibe that they did not want anyone else to maintain it near their houses.
 - Wilder needed to be cut. Rebecca mentioned that Greg might go out.
 - Rattlesnake - Rebecca and Bob has discussed Two large oaks and decided to wait till it comes down. Rebecca trimmed Witch Hazel saplings that were covering trail.
 - Peach Hill area - New signs have been put up to reduce dumping of fall leaves by neighbors on conservation land.
 - Horse ring field — will coexist with new project that will be coming up. Rebecca is looking into connection from Berlin Road to winery.