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## Minutes of the January 3, 2022 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

### *Attendees:*

*Larry Kunz (chair), Hemali Parekh (note taker), Rebecca Longvall, Bob Roemer, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Cynthia Ayotte, Andrew Schaubhut, Keith Silver, Dan Coen*

*Chairperson - Larry*

*Note taker - Hemali*

### **Waivers**

- Feedback was provided for waivers during last meeting. Rebecca is still looking into breaking waivers into trail work and events and keeping them separate.
- A section asking for permission to be photographed would be part of the waivers. This section would have option to opt out.
- Gordon asked if the trust has opinion about these waivers as volunteers also work on trust land. Rebecca will share it with trust to get their feedback but town cannot ask trust to require waivers.

### **Equestrians - Cynthia, Emily**

- Cindy has started working on MassTrails grant application. There are multiple components like budget, timeline worksheet, private land owners, notice of intent, project walkthroughs and project photos. Certification is required. Most of proposed work is on town land, but one of them is on a CR which requires notification to the land owners
- Cindy is filing for total 9 locations. They are called “crossings” and not bridges. Permits are needed for all of them. Rebecca will check again but for most of them only wetland permit is needed.
- A survey for a minimum project is needed for crossings on passive recreation.
- Cindy has summarized project at ConCom meeting. ConCom has authorized Rebecca to work with Cindy but project has not been approved yet.

### **Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities.**

- Taggart Point of interest signs and “Dead End signs” - Rebecca and Gordon
  - There is a pile of information that has to be laminated before they can be installed.
  - Rebecca received email from organization that offers Brianna’s internship about logo which will need to be updated.
  - Gordon has 5-6 dead end signs that can be installed on trees. He will try to install them this week.
  - There is a post at Forbush mill that is rotted and needs to be replaced.
- Bowers
  - Invasive plants - Drew went on Friday to remove bittersweet. He made a lot of effort but felt like he barely made a dent. Piles were left as there is a plan to make

a compost pile in future. This is a large project and winter is good time to cut bittersweet and let it die in spring or cut back multiflora roses.

- Bob's new bush wrench would be very helpful to remove invasive plants.
- Next on the priority list was Wilder.
  - The bridge to the trail currently leads to multiflora roses. During summer it becomes a meadow. Winter is a good time to work on it. Equipment used by Jim is not good at Wilder property
  - Rebecca met with a woman who rents goats. She herds the goats but there is cost associated to this so it has to be approved. This won't be in spring or summer but fall is a good time if there is funding. Rebecca will spend some time to remove them but one person cannot accomplish this.
  - Bush wrench can be used there, too but we do need to cut tops off to a level before it can be used. Larry and Gordon will try to do this one day.
- Update on Forbush Mills
  - Drew asked about the update.
  - Rebecca said that parking area and backside of Eastwood Cemetery are approved. Now they need to wait for private owners but overall there is progress on that project. Gordon said that walk along railway bed is ignored as it is private land.
  - update on Tadmor
    - There is a potential for connection to Wilder next to the commercial property through parking area but they are reworking that parcel line. We need confirmation before starting to build trails. Rebecca will check with town planner about this.

### **Sign Inventory Database**

- [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8IOifP\\_zk](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8IOifP_zk) )
- Drew updated signs for Powder House and helped update signs for Wilder pond that Hemali sent. Gordon has uploaded signs for Danforth and Keyes Farm. Gordon will volunteer for zink-Northwoods and Houghton Farms and Larry would update for Bowers. Hemali will send images for Fyfeshire to Drew.
- New signs are needed for Powder House near amphitheater. There are two large signs one of them had zoomed in view of common trails. Rebecca can print 11 x 18. Gordon will check if he can help replace them.

### **Website, Maps**

- Gordon and Cindy went to check for a potential for a new bridge at Vinger-venable where old Labyrinth is. It is in a swamp which is not human or horse friendly. Gordon and Betsy tried to follow the route that Cindy thought can be used for narrower and better crossing. Gordon showed it to Rebecca. While being there Gordon found two

trails that are not on map but exists. There is also potential to move the trail entrance so that it starts from cemetery as current path is not exactly as shown on map and is not easy to follow. Rebecca said that we would still end up in a swamp during wet season which is not ideal.

- Wilder issues.

### **Walks and events**

- Rebecca will lead a hike at Sawyer Gristmill (starting at TH1 Rte 117) at Rattlesnake Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 12pm.

### **Area reviews**

- [umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/anonymous-edit/208600:n6ETPGWLnMDcac23Wovwb5y3YtE](https://umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/anonymous-edit/208600:n6ETPGWLnMDcac23Wovwb5y3YtE)
- Bowers
  - Cindy is discussing with the lady in Harvard for potential bridge on Harvard side of the trail.
  - Bittersweet needs to be removed and PI climbing trees need brush hog.
  - Wattles - people keep pushing them and move them. They are hard to maintain. Rebecca said that town is focusing on area where people go with dogs.
  - Other options were discussed but permit is required to fence that area and trees can't be planted as it is a dam. Larger maintenance is needed in future.
  - A diagonal tree is too high for Cindy. A tree surgeon is needed there. Rebecca will discuss with DPW as they would have to do that work.
- Vaughn Hills is in good state.
- Zink-Northwoods
  - New framed map has stain as lamination has leaked. It will need to be replaced. Signs are needed as people can go in wrong direction. NAPCO property has applied for a grant with 11 other towns (Nashua montachusett Quinnipiac River). We would hear by June but at least by September. Rebecca is waiting to hear from them. If it goes through then Northwoods and Houghton Farms will all become part of the same area and the illegal trail that is extension from Northwoods now would be legal.
  - There is not a formal agreement to Laurel Drive but an email agreement exists as part of an eagle scout project. There is also a frontage as part of Houghton Farm open space.
- Rattlesnakes

- Trails look good. There are trees that might fall at some point but are in good state now.
- Annie Moore
  - Someone is dumping apples at trail head. This is not allowed and is prohibited so if you see someone dumping please either remind them not to or call Rebecca.
  - Yellow markers - Greg remarked those. Rebecca will check with Greg if he has learned anything new
- Century Mills Trails
  - There is an outreach grant that town has received so Rebecca will plan a trail day for Spectacle Hill and the eastern portion of South Bolton Road.
  - This is for putting non-motorized vehicle signs, brushing in the trails that should not be there and invasive species and connecting to Hudson property with Danforth Falls.
- Randall-Vinger
  - We discussed about route not being clear. There is a plan to walk and report back about anything that is not clear.
  - Rocky Dundee trail is not on our map is in good state and can be added on our maps. Horses could go down to the circle and hop to Randall Road and can go to the hill or can go by Shatner Farm. But this trail can get very muddy. Rebecca is encouraging decreasing future alterations and as this trail exists so it can be added.
  - Gordon will update map as Rebecca approved this.
- Welch Pond and Fyfreshire are in good state.
- Wilder
  - Drew got stuck over the bridge to nowhere. Cul-de-sac through Tadmor can use cleanup. It probably grows faster and trail is not used as much. Once people move into Goose pond, it will be used more.
  - Path unto cul-de-sac is very steep. Do we need waterbed or something to stop erosion? Is there an option to zigzag? Legally we can't do that but we did look into that.
  - We discussed the parking lot but it seems like that there is a house being built where the sign says parking on the open street map.
  - Gordon may have ability to change if not we may have to ask for permissions.

## **Social media**

- Drew proposed an idea to post to social media about reporting a problem. He shared two images. First one with wording “Trail Blocked, let us know” is fine as per Rebecca but the second sign with wording “report a problem” should not use that wording as problems hat has nothing to do with trails will be reported.
- Gordon suggested that he can fix wording on website.