
Minutes of the March 7, 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, Dan Coen, Steve Rothman

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Volunteers List

- Two new members have signed up. One of them is Jeremy, Gordon's neighbor that Gordon ran into while walking on trails on his property. Jeremy is working so cannot attend the meeting but is interested to volunteer for trail work. Gordon sent an email about monthly trail walks to volunteers last month.

Waivers - update from Rebecca

- Rebecca has not gotten time to work on waivers.

Equestrian bridge work - Cynthia

- Vinger hosts some of the protected species so a notice of intent permit form is required to be filled out. Rebecca would help with questions about the site and other details needed. Other sites are ok. Cindy would like to get the public hearing part done with ConCom so she can order the bridges. Rebecca estimates it would take at least 1 and half month to get ConCom hearing and time to wait for a response if site visit is not required. Site visit needs more time. Bridges and material can be ordered once it is registered at Registry of Deeds. **(check audio)**
- **Major projects. (List limited to top 3 priorities)**
 - **Taggart** Rebecca and Gordon
 - "Dead End signs" are already placed. Point of interest signs are laminated by Rebecca. Lumber for posts is ready. Once ground is thawed then these posts can go in. DPW would be helping with them.
 - Lancaster and Lancaster DPW has given permission to walk through Eastwood Cemetery and there is a private property but we can go through the land owned by town of Bolton. We can update maps after getting GPS tracks.
 - **Bowers**
 - There was a note about "presence of poop" on property so Larry walked the property but he did not find anything significant. He tidy up the place and cleaned up anything that he could find.

- Drew worked last but waiting for spring for a spring work party. Rebecca mentioned that we could plan a work party for Arbor Day and Earth Day during school vacation week. Earth Day is April 22.
- **Wilder.**
 - Larry and Gordon did some work to make it more approachable from other side of bridge. Trail needs to be marked.
- **Oaks**
 - Gordon and drew have done some work. Gordon and Betsy put some arrows there, but it's a big project. There are some discarded Christmas trees, do we bring it up to entrance so DPW can pick them up?
 - Rebecca has marked conservation boundaries everywhere so if you are between two boundaries then you are safe to do work there. Trail monitoring and marking is between conservation trust so town can't do much.
 - Town has diamond markers but trust does not have any such signs. Since signs are from town, but property is part of conservation land, having signs for trust would be a good idea but we don't have specific signs for trust.
 - It would be ideal to move the trail away from the cave and mark a sign "To the Cave" as it crosses someone's septic system and is rocky path. Rebecca agrees but we need to mark a new trail.
 - Rebecca marked the North Brook trail away from wetland and across Sawyer Road. Sawyer road is not very busy at that end so road crossing could be the brook crossing. At the other end, the brook crossing requires permissions, and needs notice of intent, and other processes needed. That would need a notice of intent which Rebecca is avoiding as it was flagged as liability. Additionally this keeps away from usable land, agriculture land and interaction with the dogs, etc. There is a nice trail that already exists and there is already a bridge across the brook which can be used. Existing trail is considered as usable land for them.
 - International is not interested in allowing access to cross brook with a bridge due to liability. Rebecca has provided information that if you offer land for access and are not charging for it than you are not liable but they are still concerned about water crossings and the bridge. Rebecca has said that we need to wait for property owners to open that trail and make it lower priority to give owners time. Since town owns the easement, it would absolve land owners of responsibility but we don't know if they grant the CR to areas that

are not wetland where we can add a walking trail. We need to have conversation between property owners and ConCom. Gordon would like to avoid people using the dam as there is liability issue.

- We discussed brook crossing. The narrowest point on the brook is by Gordon and Betsy's property so would they have to donate land or give easement for the trail? Other option is if there is a way to cross across wide portion of wet land. Gordon and Drew suggested that we need to finalize the brook crossing so Gordon will get GPS tracks to propose new route to Escalante. Rebecca says that cart path might work if we can show them that we are only going to cross brook from Sawyer Road.
- Rebecca does not think that needs to be done by conservation trust. It is up to property owners.
- We decided to document existing cart path and get GPS tracks for Rebecca's marked trail.
- **Powder House proposal from Drew.** (see attachment)
 - Drew shared proposal that he is planning to share with trust to get their agreement. It is an open space parcel and a new quarter mile of trail to be access to all other trails. This goes through Jeremiah Callahan's property. Drew suggested that once we get approval for proposal then we can reach out to land owners to see if we can utilize existing trails. If not, we may have to find new trails.
 - This is a really desirable plot with a lot of vernal pools and wetland on that property as per Rebecca. No one has talked with Callahan but owners no longer lived at this address that was given with the property card so when she sent a note for some other project, she did not hear back from them. Bob says that they were interested in the forestry plan so if he can get in contact, this trail can be put through.
 - Drew suggested to reach out to Colby's property after meeting with ConCom. Rebecca suggests to stop the trail or a different demarkation of private property as you don't want to propose without their permission in a public hearing. Drew will reach out to them but mark with an "x" at private property.
 - Drew will send updated map once he has made changes to map.

- **Sign Inventory Database**
- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8IOifP_zk
 - No new updates this month.
- Website, Maps
 - “Report a problem” is receiving advertise from robots. Steve suggested to put some anti-robot feature. Gordon added a Captcha to prevent a robot attack. Gordon has used Drew, Hemali and Gordon’s page.
 - Do we need Captcha to that page as well? Plan should be only if start getting any problems on those pages.
 - Gordon has updated with latest trail work.
- Walks and events – Rebecca
 - Trail walk is planned for a loop trail from Northwoods from Wedgewood circle going into Harvard to the starting on March 22.
- Area review umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/anonymous-edit/208600:n6ETPGWLnMDcac23W
 - Review trails time to time and update as new storms cause any new damage. Trails have been good shape.
 - Gordon suggested to bring lopers during your trail walks.