
Minutes of the August 31, 2022 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Backyard Bolton

- Teams are needed to represent at Backyard Bolton. Dates and time for this event are August 20, 27 and September 10 from 10am to 1pm.
- Taggart insert for the guide will be available and the Guides will be available for sale. Drew will reach out to Liz and Ellie to get them from the Town Hall and Ellie. The Trust has a Venmo account. Liz has created QR codes for Trust Membership payments.
- Drew has poster that was made and used last year, table, QR codes to allow payments for trail guides and membership dues online using PayPal.
- Someone should ask Cindy as she might want to help.
- BCT might want to send someone to represent from their side as well.
- Keith suggested “Miles of paved roads in Bolton almost equal to miles of trails” poster or sign at the table. He found it on highway department’s website. This is not finalized yet.
- August 20 - Drew, Hemali, Gordon and Betsy
- August 27 Keith, Gordon and Betsy
- September 10: Larry, Gordon and Betsy

Bolton Fair - August 12-14

- We can have a table for free if we have 2-3 people help with set-up and/or take-down. This could be shared with the Trust. Volunteers are needed for all three days, assuming that the Trust will also have people available.
- Since no one is available for this time, we will pass this year. We can plan ahead for next year.

Recruitment and large projects

- We have a long list of potential volunteers. We should engage them more and start to encourage them to be more active with Trails (and the Trust).
- Bob suggested to define projects well and have planned work available when volunteers get to location. How to clear invasive in systematic way, multiple sessions planned and on regular basis so we get consistent

volunteer participation. Larry said that when Bowers Invasive project started there were 15-20 participants.

- Bob had a list of individual projects that were well planned with details of the work, who owns them and who is pursuing projects like “Boy scouts plans to build a bridge” and “New England power land”.
- Other suggestion was to set up events that feel like “come, listen, learn and play”. It is a great way to engage people in this type of work.
 - A presentation to highlights Trails committee success and how to maintain continuity (we need new volunteers to continue this work).
 - Winter Carnival - offering short cross country or snowshoe races, guided hikes or other activities to have a representation.
 - May be BCT can give some money to have goodies during these events to attract attention.
- If there are projects already planned than provide a way for people to sign up to volunteer during “Backyard Bolton”
 - Trails Committee Volunteer introduction initiative day
 - Horse trails
 - Invasive management
 - other projects
 - Rob Held work party day
 - There used to be a “Rob Held work party day” after he passed away. There used to be drinks and food. Rich Pelletier was a supporter.
 - We can propose to the Trust to offer money for food and refreshments for a talk and work party at Bowers in September. Talk can be about value of trails, open spaces and how volunteers make it happen.
 - We need more people to have emotional commitment to get trail work going. Places like Bowers, Fyfeshire and Rattlesnakes are used by many and should be highlighted.
- Regular monthly newsletter to engage volunteers with content like “How to manage invasive plants”, “what is happening,” “invasive of the month — how to identify and pull to manage, where to put clippings if someone is pulling from trails”.
- Equestrian project might add traction like we got for trail signs project.

Tom Denney Trail markers removal

- We left this for next month but just remember to take them down once camp is done.

Guidebooks

- The Trust has agreed to wait for another edition for any updates. 50 more copies of the 2021 edition will be printed when needed. We are waiting to see the sales figures from Backyard Bolton before ordering 50 copies.

Sign Inventory Database

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QlkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP_zk

- Drew has completed all intersections for Rattlesnake except for Bob Horton Trail.

Equestrians - Cynthia, Emily

- Cynthia had a conflict so she sent a written update with next steps to finalize the federal process to receive the grant. Cynthia said that there will be an award notification but September 1. She is planning to get some of the work started to get quotes for material, identify contractor, etc.

Walks and events

Rebecca was not present

[trailcare.com](#) feedback

- [Trailcare.com](#)
- It is now mentioned on the [Boltontrails.org](#) homepage.
- Gordon and Larry have used it. The only complaint is that if you are working on trail it does not work as well. For example, if you found a tree down, click on the app, it takes you to GPS coordinates and puts on the map but without network this feature does not work.
- Area review <https://www.trailcare.com/map>
- Volunteer projects.
 - Boy Scouts: Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, Fyfeshire bridge repairs, Wilder markings, The Oaks trash removal, etc.
- Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities.
 - Bowers
 - Cindy/Winslow have been clearing invasive at Bowers.

- Larry is planning a volunteer project for invasive removal at Bowers.
- Brush hog might have been sharpened. Larry felt that it did not look sharpened. He will take a closer look. A spot is needed to keep brush hog.
- Bittersweet - Rebecca was thinking of a work party where we are able to cut the vine then pull it out of the vegetation.
- Cindy has been busy clearing poop among other things.
- Wilder
 - Wood chips are approved by ConCom but Drew has not heard that they can be dumped. Rebecca is working with private land owners. Drew will follow up with Rebecca.
- The Oaks, Schultz Farm, The International and the LIV golf tournament.
 - Dan got approvals to be able to build new trails from Schultz Farm up to the road. The International would like to support trails across land and be a good citizen to make bridges across flow. Gordon has provided places where it would be possible to cross the brook.

Maps

- Rattlesnake - couple of trees down by Grist Mill.
- Powderhouse trail - Drew discussed Lisa from Parks and Rec department about the intersection that usually gets wet. She told Drew that we can do something if it solves the problem. Triax material might work there. Wattle bars are another option.
- A sign needs to be repainted. Bob has the right paint so he can help with this.
- Danforth - Tree reported here might be on neighboring land and not on the trail.