
Minutes of the May 9, 2022 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Larry Kunz (chair), Hemali Parekh (note taker), Bob Roemer, Andrew Schaubhut, Keith Silver

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Waivers

- Rebecca is reviewing two other towns' waivers that have been recently updated. She will share updates with HR. She will share updated waivers once they are reviewed and approved by HR.
- Equestrians - Cynthia
 - Cynthia had a conflict so she could not join. She shared via email that there are long wait times to order material due to supply chain issue and no delivery time estimates.
 - Harvard Land Stewardship Committee brought up proposal for equestrian crossing and did not approve crossing in that area due to sensitivity of the site.
 - Question came up during the meeting if the equestrian project has been approved by Bolton ConCom. Bartsch connector is not formally approved with signatures yet. Cynthia and Rebecca worked on Vaughn Hills, Annie Moore and Randall-Vinger. ConCom closed and authorized and permitted those three but, they did not specify materials. They gave two options for material, the suggested reinforced polymer material and the wood. There are conditions associated with that. We are waiting for signatures. None are required to be replaced. Once approved by ConCom, permits are good for three years.
 - Change in location for Randall-Vinger is not approved. Shorter path is close to wet land but longer path which is 150ft south of there is drier but requires building new trail and bridge. Reason was not discussed in details at ConCom but there may have concern about being close to private property. Existing trail is difficult to replace as it is challenging to put any bridge in that location. ConCom was focusing on if the crossing needs to be maintained and not about creating equestrian crossing there. ConCom may have also thought that not all trail location need to have all connectivity as long as other locations have connectivity.
 - They approved if Trails Committee want to update existing crossing at existing location. None of these are required to be replaced. We have permit for three

years if we want to update for maintenance or equestrian use. They cannot use SonoTube.

- Town cannot advertise that these trails are equestrian use as it requires a lot of liabilities. This is same as bicycle club so we need to be careful about what we say.
- Question came about whether this was well represented. During public hearing it was Cynthia by herself. Bob Hatch did not attend.
- Town has to look into financial stake since it is town procurement. Also Rebecca reminded that not to procure any material prior to grant approval since it will not be reimbursed as there is a process for that. Even if someone wants to donate, the process has to be followed.
- Material - if wood is one of the material, who is designing the wood? Wooden bridges will go through same process. We need to go through check and balance of what material is being used and get approved before starting to use. Anyone who uses town horses, barns or any event needs to sign a waiver. So make sure that authorized person designs these material and can support these waiver. They need to be engineered properly as a lot of liability is associated with this. Rebecca said that nowhere in the process it is mentioned that this equestrian friendly due to liability. Bob said that even when its not mentioned anywhere but an attorney comes back saying that this was proposed and designed by equestrian organization, we end up in the same liability situation so we need to be very careful.
- If people choose to ride even when we are not advertising it, can we still end up in similar situation? The answer is yes but its not as bad as a crossing that was installed and designed by equestrian group. There is more of legal details.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities.

- Taggart Point of interest signs - Rebecca
 - DPW helped install gravel parking areas permitted by the Commission. There is a nice sign installed. Point of interest post is ready to be installed. Gordon and Betsy might help.
 - Signs are laminated and can be framed once frames are ready. They are being converted to landscape but are not priority. Rebecca will Bob know if additional frames are needed.

- Trail connection to Sand Road is being discussed and waiting for private property owner to talk with the sister. Rebecca talked to them and is waiting for them for a week or two to get the response.
- Temporary bridge replacement is on TODO list. It can be a potential scout project as its permitted. It would be a bridge similar to Wilder with curbing. Entire bridge has to be 4-5ft wide.
- Bowers
 - Good progress was made on Multiflora roses at Bowers by Cynthia and Winslow.
 - Larry, Andrew, Dan Cohen and Ketan participated in a work party. There was a lot of work done. There is 12 ft of clear visual space by parking lot and another 15 ft of telephone poles that were completely buried. They ended up with a mountain of clipping. Should we bring that down to the meadow where there is compost pile. Rebecca has gone to review the location for bicycle rec. they have said that they will help move it.
 - A leaning double pine needs help from tree warden but looks like Drew took care of it.
 - Bittersweet removal- Whole area along swamp side also needs work party to remove bittersweet there.
 - Question came up if that was multiflora rose as the plants that Bob pulled out was not MFR. We need guidance from Rebecca as we are not sure how to differentiate if it is not. Removing understory from the area on side of pond is very helpful in any case. Any shrub like material along beach should not be removed.
 - Wood chips for downed trees was brought up by Cynthia in email. We will discuss when she is present.
 - Lot of beaver activity at Bowers.
- Wilder
 - Nothing new is done since Drew, Winslow and Gordon marked the potential trail across the meadow. Rebecca needs to look at the trail before we take next steps.
 - Wilder and rainforest of Vinger needs to be hit by weed whacker as the growth starts if anyone has time to do the work.
 - Wilder entrance off of 117 and near Tadmor entrance. Drew has done some work to clear the trail.
- The Oaks; Gordon, Drew and Dan

- Betsy and Gordon put arrows a while ago. Connection from Trust easement across town land behind the houses has been marked. Drew and Gordon did some work. Nothing else has been done.
- Any other relevant updates?
- Rattlesnake and winged euonymus - Bob
- Sign Inventory Database: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP_zk
- Website, Maps, etc. - Gordon
- Walks and events – Rebecca
- Area review umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/anonymous-edit/208600:n6ETPGWLnMDcac23Wovwb5y3YtE
- Boy Scout Volunteer projects?
- Powder House Hill - Drew
- Anything else?