

## *Minutes of the November 07, 2022 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting*

### *Attendees:*

*Larry Kunz (chair), Hemali Parekh (note taker), Bob Roemer, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Steve Rothman, Andrew Schaubhut, Greg Matte, Bob Johnson*

*Chairperson - Larry*

*Note taker - Hemali*

### **Fyfeshire/Wattaquaddock Pond Bridge Repair**

- All material has been ordered and is anticipated to be delivered to town hall conservation commission container today or tomorrow.
- Bob came up with a sketch of how to do the repair in best way and what material is needed. Rebecca has sent it to the DPW. They will do the repair before . In parallel to that Steve Snider and his son did necessary repair. They will present as an eagle scout project. They will get together with Rebecca about material and how to proceed from there. Rebecca would have more information.
- This project is unanimously approved during October 18 ConCom meeting. Looks like project is approved.

### **Quarterly Newsletter - Hemali and Drew**

- Gordon proposed if we can use Trails committee's Constant Contact account. Hemali has sent an email to Trails committee to request access to use Constant Contact account.
- Once we get an access, Hemali will create a template for Bolton Trails newsletters and add multiple people who can edit and send email.
- We want to add "How to report an issue" in next email.
- Same format can be kept.
- Gordon has suggested to get someone to review email before we send the next time.
- Other topics to add: "Hikes and walks," any events coming up, recent work done. Please send any topics that would be interesting to be added in newsletters.
- Constant Contact has a way to count how many people opened emails, read emails and clicked links within the email.

### **Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca**

- We are still in what the program calls the "initiation phase" therefore we review all materials submitted and work with grant administrator to finalize contract documents. When we are at the next phase I will provide an update.

### **Rattlesnake Trail Marking Improvement**

- The ideas expressed at the prior meeting were helpful reflecting colors for main loops/trails. That being said as always a reminder that if there is a change suggested the property owner will need to approve/authorize the change (BCT/BCC).
- We need more time to review all the proposals and what would be the best way to improve trail markers. We decided to form a sub committee.

- Drew, Gordon, Steve and Hemali will meet with Rebecca separately to review ideas and bring final proposal to this meeting.
- Drew brought up that he started looking into Bob Horton Trail. He walked the trail and noticed a few things that seems changed. It was probably written in 80s. It seems like 7 is before 6, apple tree might be missing, etc. It seems like something that we can improve and update before next version of guide comes out.
- We can update anytime. Bob said that garden club used to do this. Garden club does not exist anymore. Bob Horton trail has been written “wild flower walk” by working with Neil Jordon who was environmentalist who lived near by and was interested. Drew has gotten all the transcript from previous pdf and has asked if the plants still exists.
- Bob said that reverse numbers were due to map was created in aluminum and was not easy to replace.
- Drew suggests to update the map, check all the plants in spring and summer. Elizabeth Bogdanas has done plant identification in the past. She can help if someone else would be able to walk the trail and work with her.
- She came up with floating labels that can be moved with plants. It can be a good scout project.
- Greg does not think that scouts are interested in botany.
- Gordon brought up that girls might not be interested in botany.
- Betsy said that we need to visit when plants emerge since those plants are short-lived.
- Hemali mentioned that Elizabeth updated the list and did a walk 2-3 years ago. Hemali offered to reach out to Elizabeth and ask if she could help to review the updates. Drew and Hemali are willing to help her and update the trail with latest information on where the plants are.
- Elizabeth can help ID plants, update the map. Then its matter of going and putting the stakes where they should go in.
- We won't see the plants until spring or fall. It would be good to talk with Elizabeth. She can help guide us.
- Drew brought up stone walls at Bob Horton Trail. Can we get more stone wall references? It's difficult to add them when you have to bushwhack to get details about stone wall tracks. We usually include them as a landmark or pass through a gap.
- Bob mentioned that trees falling over stone wall may damage stone wall. He suggests to prevent further damage by removing trees that have fallen and in future rebuild damaged stone walls to restore them.

## **Taggart to Sand Rd Connection through Private Parcel - Rebecca**

- The Commission is still working with the property owner as they discuss with their family members about the final location and its acceptance.
- However, the private property owner has allowed/authorized temporary use of the section of trail to create a through/loop for the Day after Thanksgiving walk (being coordinated with/by the Bolton Conservation Trust).
- We need to clarify with Rebecca if long term permission is granted before doing anything there.
- Gordon says that there is a route that can be taken near state where you can go up the hill, where it goes close to rail road bed and can be made into the loop.

## **Guidebook sales at the Bean and Town Hall - update from Gordon**

### **Guidebook. 2024/2025 target updates:**

- Gordon mentioned that Bolton Bean may keep copies of Trails guide under the counter for sale using QR codes. There would be a display behind the counter. We could do the same thing at town hall as well. Trust board was going to discuss it this week.
- This way they won't have to deal with money but customers will be able to get the copy right away once they have paid for the guide using QR code.
  - The Oaks (or should we call it "Ballville Trails"?)
  - Horse Ring
  - Extended Powder House
  - Extended Taggart
  - Extended Rattlesnake
- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road. Somebody has cleared the fallen trees, but these are on Nicewicz land. Actual conservation land is up the hill. See the meeting maps.
  - Some of the trees were not very big. They may not be cleared by Nicewicz but someone else cut them down.
  - Gordon put a new map. They have marked a small polka dot ribbon along the boundary of Nicewicz land. They would like to have that connection made.
  - Drew sent a few updates to maps to Gordon. Gordon has updated all the online maps that could be updated.
- Naming needs to be coordinated with the BCT and BCC, however I think reasonable names related to geographic locations in town are typically accepted. I would note some of the conservation properties are deeded a name, the larger collective area though remains unnamed at present.

### **Walks and events**

- Trust is planning a Taggart walk for Black Friday on November 25. They would send an email.
- Area review <https://www.trailcare.com/map>
  - Rattlesnake - A tree came down across the cave. Bob will take care of it.
  - Larry and Gordon took care of bridges at Bowers.
  - Vaughn Hills - Gordon reported recent tree down. Broken structure near Sullivan memorial. Couple of posts are rotted and roof has fallen over. It's not fixed. It can be potential scouts project.
  - Nothing is reported at Taggart and Welch Pond. There is something at Hapgood Wright trail. Its not blocking but is annoying.
  - Drew brought up trees that had poison Ivy that he did not want to tackle till winter. Betsy reminded that PI is active in winter, too. It's good to be careful.
  - Gould-White trail head needs a new map and a post to Berlin Road. Trail was added after the list came about.
  - Taggart signs and frames - That project is on hold. Gordon went through and edited everything that Brianna has created. They were converted to landscape. Rebecca has everything. She was going to laminate and put them in landscape frames, but after that no new update on that.
  - Nailing to trees is not a good way to do this as lamination would start to peel and signs won't survive for too long. We need to talk to Rebecca.
  - Bridge can be done at anytime at Annie Moore. This is the area where we need an assessment and re-construction. We will need to talk to ConCom about that.
- October Trust meeting: Next Trust meeting is on Wednesday 9 November 7:30 pm. Gordon Planning to attend; Would anybody else attend? Drew took a non-directorship role He is taking over Betsy's files.

He has taken on reporting on value of conservation lands. You have to look it up on town websites. He has not gotten access to all the files in drop box. Drew does not know who is the owner of drop box account. Hemali will join to ask about Constant Contact account.

- Library would add an outdoor backpack with trail guides that would be donated by trust. One was for birds. It would be good to get one added about trails. That can be added to newsletter.
- Gordon asked if there is anything about botanicals. We did not find anything specifically about botany but the Field explored has something about leaf press. Gordon might suggest about botany kit.
- Bob mentioned to add links to some key websites like "Go Botany" and "Native Plant Trust" as part of providing a tip about how to identify plants.

## **Volunteer project suggestions**

- Rebecca manages these projects. If someone like boy scouts needs a project, she can help them from the list that she maintains. No one would mind if we pick them up but these below are suggestions.
  - Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, Upper (Teresa Sauer) Fyfeshire bridge repairs, Sullivan memorial repairs, Wilder markings , The Oaks/Ballville trash removal
  - Update and review the mileage database: Either we do it area by area or one person takes the project and updates the mileage database. It's been a while and there is data from various places.

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

- Bowers
  - Jim Henderson mowed the meadow. We need to finish the edges near the big pines to remove the plants like Poison Ivy that starts to climb.
  - Poison Ivy is still nasty in winter. You have to be careful.
  - Larry did a couple of test patches with vinegar and salt. Both had immediate impact of turning brown. But Larry said that it does not have impact over next year's growth. Larry learned that if you cut 3 times a season for 3 years which would cut down the growth.
  - Other option is to use Roundup but its not environmentally friendly.
  - If newsletter becomes recognizable then send a quick note to volunteer to send quick invite to join a work party.
  - Betsy said that you can send an email to trail volunteers even now. Betsy said that you can make a template with specific picture so email is easy to identify.
- Pending Eagle Scout project near TDNC area - Rebecca wants to revegetate that for erosion control. It is waiting approval.
  - Wilder; Drew, Rebecca. Wood chips approved by ConCom. Drew will go on Sunday around 1 p.m. Gordon, Betsy will join. Send email to volunteers to invite them to join.
  - Drew and Rebecca walked the route at wilder to follow a tractor road on farm to connect onto that. They need to ask the ConCom. 1990 guide book shows that trail goes through but there is no confirmation that land is bought bu town or not.
  - Ballville Trails/The Oaks: The Oaks Loop Trail - Drew has done more work. More lawn cleanup waste is dumped by one of the owners. Other than that most of the trail is cleared. Then he lost the trail from Gordon's direction. Gordon has marked it all the way now. Drew and Gordon will walk together.
  - Bridge discussion is needed with Rebecca. Golf tournament is most likely coming back.
  - Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - site visit needed to confirm. Trail route cannot follow the existing cart path because of wetlands and flood plain of North Brook.

Bridge will be needed. See the meeting maps. **File Notice of Intent for crossing and proposed location.**

- Likely paid for by BCT
- Option 1: Large Bridge through Schultz Farm land (owned by International)
- Option 2: Shorter Bridge through Taylor-Kennedy Land
- Pending Eagle Scout Project near Taggart Entrance (Bridge) **this project should be underway or will be shortly.**