

## **Minutes of the October 03, 2022 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting**

*Attendees:*

*Larry Kunz (chair), Hemali Parekh (note taker), Rebecca Longvall, Bob Roemer, Steve Rothman, Andrew Schaubhut, Bob Johnson*

*Chairperson - Larry*

*Note taker - Hemali*

### **Fyfeshire Bridge Repair**

Fyfeshire bridge that is close to Wattaquadock Hill Road requires repair. Rebecca expects the proposed work will get reviewed during 10/18 ConCom meeting. She will reach out once it's approved. Material is available.

New footing will go parallel to old footing. They will use post hole digger and not a jack hammer. They will be using eight inch sonotube and would not have to get deeper than 4 feet. Previous repairs were better than the original work. Original work was not that good as it is rotted.

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

Drew has come up with the topics for the fall newsletter. We will write for these topics on the website before sending newsletter.

Hemali showed an example of how quarterly newsletter using Constant Contact. We used our logo to design newsletter. Most other newsletters have partial writing and link to the website. They also have only 3 or 4 high level topics to engage audience.

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

Status is still in progress. We are waiting for contract from state. They will look through draft one more time. Guidance is to not do anything until contract.

### **Rattlesnake Trail Marking Improvement - Gordon put together a proposal**

Gordon sent a proposal via email for color coding trail maps. Drew also suggested ideas based on other towns and DCR trail examples. Rebecca asked to do research and finalize to send a proposal to ConCom for approval.

Bob suggested that if we identify a trail and it would be nice to also write estimated time to complete that trail on the map. Average time based on miles to hike a trail and elevation differences would help decide if they can hike or not. It would be helpful to people.

Rebecca is working on another project where how far a trail is from a given neighborhood that would also benefit if information on how long it would take to hike a trail.

Drew brought up the map that he had created. He had started with Bob Horton Trail. He added marking with color yellow and Bolton Loop trail with white. He brought up that there is an

intersection at 1B where one or more trees may have fallen down which has caused an area of confusion. It would be easier to follow if one of the section can be closed off.

Bob brought up that there is a survey mark where at stone wall which is also confusing. It would be great to find out where our land belongs along the stone wall.

Rebecca said that it was either placed as there might be work done on one of the property or placed to locate CR boundaries for one of the parcel.

Bob brought up that there is a 10 acre lot that is owned by Trust. Should we ask trust to donate to town for consistency? Rebecca said that there might not be any opposition but there is no concern at the moment based on ownership. Bob will talk with Dan to see if Trust would like to do this.

### **Event Recap: Sept 27 Glossy Buckthorn Removal**

Jan and Rebecca went for about an hour and half to cut back glossy buckthorn as we cannot use herbicide and there is no other good way to control other than cutting back. They got about one-fourth of a way around larger pond. She would like to set up another work party to continue doing this work. Rebecca will send out couple of dates to get feedback from this group.

Largest ones of them are 6 inch in diameter. When you cut back, they will re-sprout and it causes them to become larger. Device that Bob has for Euonymus is designed for buckthorn. The way this takes it out will not allow it to re-sprout.

### **Event Recap: Goose Pond Path Trail Improvement - Drew**

Drew put a post about this on the website but forgot to send to everyone. Two leaders and group of scouts helped to clear vegetation from Wilder Pond area. Original plan was to spread wood chips in the Goose pond trailhead area but it was not delivered yet. Picture shows how well the work was done by the scouts.

Rebecca reported that the wood chips are delivered now and ConCom has no problem if they are used for other properties in town if there is any extra. Previously approved section can be done first at Wilder and additional area can be done after meeting on 10/18. After that meeting, We might be able to do the work all the way to 117. Rebecca can request to deliver wood chips to Woodside drive. Home owners are ok as long as nothing new is being added in terms of structure.

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

Rebecca walked with private property owner. Trail from Rail-bed at Taggart and connects to cemetery to the backside of their area. They are comfortable with that. We don't want to encourage public access to the state property so that project is on hold until we get approval from state.

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

Gordon is managing the guidebook but we should finalize what should make to 2023 version of guidebook. We need Gordon for this discussion.

All of these below should be included.

- The Oaks (or should we call it "Ballville Trails")?
- Horse Ring
- Extended Powder House
- Extended Taggart
- Extended Rattlesnake
- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road

## **Walks and events**

Trust is planning a Taggart walk for Black Friday, Nov 25. They will send a blast email about Black Friday walk. Hopefully, its ok to walk from the parking lot now. Liz has been discussing it with Rebecca and she might be already talking with private property owner/s. It sounded to Rebecca that they might be ok to opening it up for the one time without long term decision. Rebecca will also talk with Dan about this.

## **TrailCare app to report**

<https://www.trailcare.com/map> Area review <https://www.trailcare.com/map> is the link to the website. Instructions have been added to HQ page.

You can report anonymously. Public can report as well as we can report by logging in as well.

## **Sept Trust meeting**

- Gordon, Hemali and Drew attended. Next Trust meeting is on Wednesday 14 September 7:30 pm.
- They mentioned about LIV golf grant. There might be some money towards bridges at North Brook crossing and where the bridge to be put was discussion without any conclusion.
- November walk was discussed before during this meeting.
- They gave a summary about the summer camp.
- We may want to send one person at Trust meeting every month.

## **Area Review**

We used [trailcare.com](https://www.trailcare.com) for area review as other option is no longer working.

- \* A tree is down at Vaughn Hills
- \* Broken structures at Bowers that needs quick repair. It seems like Trex is broken or may be was cut which is weird. Larry will take care of it when he goes to Bowers.
- \* Rebecca will check if there are pieces saved.
- \* Rattlesnake has a couple of trees that Drew might take care of he visits that trail in few days.
- \* There is no way to know if someone from team reported or someone else added it.
- \* Nothing at Danforth
- \* Trees at Randall-Vinger had poison ivy on the trees so Drew left them as it is. He will go in winter.

- \* Rocky Dundee trail entrance is not clear. Putting additional markings or post would be helpful.
- \* Welch pond: A tree is down but it's not clear if it's on conservation land or not.
- \* Website has information on how to report area review. We should also send it in Newsletter.

### **Eagle Scouts projects**

- Rebecca has a contact for Boy Scouts projects. Drew worked with Michelle who is an involved mom who reached out at Backyard Bolton.
- Gordon had suggested some of the options for eagle scout volunteer projects listed below.
  - Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, Fyfeshire bridge repairs, Wilder markings, The Oaks trash removal...
  - Update and review the mileage database...
  - Wilder marking and trail making once approved

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

- Bowers
  - Larry ran multiple Invasive Sessions this year.
  - Larry also did a controlled experiment to reduce/remove poison ivy at Bowers by using two different type of options. Both worked well. Poison ivy was killed by both. Area underneath was not affected.
  - Next step would be to apply to larger area. Salt option is preferred by Rebecca. She suggested an area that is best suited for this experiment.
  - Jim Henderson will be on the property. Larry will try to work using brush hog while he is there so their efforts are not duplicated.
  - Pending Eagle Scout project near TDNC area
    - Scout who worked at nature camp is working on Eagle scout project. He will work on erosion control once he gets approval.
    - Near parking lot to cart path has some erosion and would be helpful to apply the material to control erosion. Rebecca will ask DPW if they can do this.

### **Wilder markings**

- The area that went through wetland and is being relocated. That is not finalized yet as it is going through resource area and if not approved we may need to find another path. Rebecca is available during work hours. Drew suggested to walk together with Rebecca.

### **The Oaks Loop Trail**

Drew did some work this month. Now less than half a mile of work is left on the southern side of the loop. Larry and Drew will co-ordinate on that

### **Connect The Oaks to Fyfeshire**

- Site visit is needed to confirm.

- We did not discuss this until Gordon and Betsy are back. Rebecca will follow up with Gordon and Dan as it seems like they need help from Rebecca. This will require review and filing so choosing best option is important.
- Option 1: Large Bridge through Schultz Farm land (owned by International)
- Option 2: Shorter Bridge through Taylor-Kennedy Land

### **Eagle Scout Project - Taggart Entrance (Bridge)**

Eagle Scout project is waiting for a final review. Bridge will be at Taggart right near trail head of Taggart.