

Minutes of the September 12, 2022 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Larry Kunz (chair), Hemali Parekh (note taker), Rebecca Longvall, Bob Roemer, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Steve Rothman, Andrew Schaubhut

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Backyard Bolton - Feedback

- We represented all three weekends. 29 Trails guides were sold in total. (8+10+11) some paid with cash, others used QR codes to pay with credit card. There are two options online. One of the option is to pay \$24 with shipping. Other option is to pay \$20 and pick up from Town Hall. Liz is going to return \$4 to the people who paid extra.
- There was one person last week who wants to volunteer and is interested to attend the meeting. Drew has the form. There were 3 people interested to volunteer during last week at Backyard Bolton.
- High school Robotics team was next to us bringing more traffic last week.
- Return the map/poster board back to Rebecca.

Comments and complaints

- **Rattlesnake Trail marking feedback given via info@boltontrails.org**
 - There was a feedback on website about trail marketing at the intersections like Lime Kiln, Split Rock and Philip's trail for Rattlesnake property. Its more evident when hiker is in between the two trails where these is not a good way to differentiate.
 - It could be someone that is new to these trails.
 - There is an option to download .kmz file and use it to follow the trail but any people are not comfortable to use kmz file and GPS during hike
 - We discussed how to address this during the meeting.
 - Label signs with full name or an acronym for the trail. Display them at intersections and in between two intersections.
 - Color code trails - Maps are not color-coded yet. Colors on trail will confuse as it won't match the trail guide or maps yet.
 - Rebecca said that guided walks that are done monthly are to help people find their way easily and learn about new trails. Also, from the email it's not clear if this is a single person or are there many people affected by this? She will follow up with the person.
 - Many people don't know how to use map and compass along with trail maps to find their way. Once a hiker has that skill, its easy to find their bearing.
 - Doing a session on how to use map and compass session during Guided Walk or a doing a session on its own might be a good idea.
 - Another suggestion was to make sure to orient trail map facing north.
 - It was decided that color-coding maps would be a good option but it requires a separate meeting and discussion.

- **Annie Moore somebody at Backyard Bolton complained that the trails were badly marked**
 - Annie Moore is very linear area but there are some mock trails that might confuse someone if they are not using map and are not checking trail markings. A map and compass skill would be helpful here, too.
- **Painted stones on trail - remark on the website**
 - somebody calling themselves “Edward Abbey” has made a couple of remarks on the website
 - COA has asked for permission to place painted rocks on trail and were allowed by ConCom so they are approved. If someone wants to get them removed, they need to go through similar process and discuss with ConCom.
- **Recruitment and large projects**
 - It was brought up that we have list of potential volunteers. We should engage them more and start to encourage them to be more active with Trails (and the Trust). What can we do to get this going?
 - It was discuss that we should send quarterly newsletter.
 - Newsletters would be better read if they were formatted with a header that looks official and has a standard format. Using something like Constant Contact or other email service might help.
 - Emails could highlight major projects, event updates, upcoming opportunities, hikes.
 - It was discussed that we should send a survey to ask if volunteers would like regular newsletters. Should we also do a survey if they have preference to work in specific area or have interest in specific property. Both of these are collected when someone signs up via website. Everyone has selected all areas and all types of work.
- **Fyfeshire trails maintenance with goats update**
 - This work was done near the entry way and near the stone entrance, and trails that go towards the restaurant. These are the areas which get used by many people. They charged by linear footage or fencing. total cost was about \$1000. Owner is a vet and takes good care of goats. She uses electric fence, checks on goats every day but goats stay there so they get used to the area and saves time and is more effective. Other companies bring goats back and forth.
 - Goats did a great job but area needs to be monitored during next spring to say that it was effective. Leaves were eaten by goats but stems are still present.
 - If this works, Bowers would be a good candidate for using goats as per Larry.
- **Tom Denney trail markers removal**
 - Gordon and Larry will help with this as we need to take green tags down.
- **Equestrians - update from Rebecca**
 - Rebecca is waiting for larger pool of funding to be accepted by budget. Rebecca is expecting announcement this month (may be within a week). We

cannot order anything until the contract is signed otherwise no reimbursement is given.

- Would inflation impact this project?
 - Yes, inflation can impact this project as any project during this time. This has happened in past. We would communicate with them via correspondence and ask for a feedback. Most executors are excellent at working with in these scenarios. They review and are happy to help in anyway to support the project.
- **Guidebook.**
 - Fifth Printing available with updated All Trails Club requirements and an insert for Taggart. Rebecca suggested to prioritize areas to be completed for a 2024 or 2025 full new edition. Possible candidates:
 - The Oaks (or should we call it “Ballville Trails”?)
 - Horse Ring
 - Extended Powder House
 - Extended Taggart
 - Extended Rattlesnake
 - Welch Pond extension
 - Houghton Farm
 - Someone should reach out to Trust to see if there are other areas that need to be added.
- **Sign Inventory Database**
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP_zk
 - This can be removed from future agenda.
- **Walks and events**
 - Trust is planning a Taggart walk for Black Friday. Rebecca will discuss with Liz and Dan to co-ordinate with them.
 - Buckthorn removal event is planned for September 27th. Send an email to volunteer group.
 - Question was raised about Taggart. Is there any update about connection to parking area through private land?
 - Rebecca will walk with private property owner to answer any questions and finalize it. Town of Lancaster and DPW have authorized. Just middle section with private land owner needs to be finalized. Trail might go close to the town land.

- Trailcare.com – feedback. Now mentioned on the Boltontrails.org homepage.
- Area review <https://www.trailcare.com/map>
- **August Trust meeting; Gordon, Larry and Drew attended.**
 - Drew nominated for Trust Board. Also Hemali has been mentioned. Next Trust meeting is on Wednesday 14 September 7:30 pm.
- **Volunteer projects**
 - Boy Scouts - A scout has been approved for a project at Bowers. Project would be to improve trail and erosion remediation. He will not be using wood chips but would be brushing in area in slope to slow down compaction. He is working with ConCom. They may need additional volunteers.
 - Fyfeshire bridge repairs
 - Bob and Rebecca went to look at the status. It's really broken and repair is needed. A tree came down, broken the upper part of the bridge near Peach Hill Road, the area where stream runs into Upper Pond.
 - Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, Fyfeshire bridge repairs, Wilder markings , The Oaks trash removal...
 - Update and review the mileage database...
- Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities.
 - Bowers
 - Drew and Larry - any recent work?
 - Bittersweet - Rebecca is 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; Drew, Rebecca. Wood chips approved by ConCom. What next?
 - The Oaks, Schultz Farm, Connecting trail and bridges (The Trust is involved); Gordon