

Minutes of the December 05, 2022 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Fyfeshire/Wattaquaddock Pond Bridge Repair

- One of the scouts has repaired the planks. We still need to repair the footings. We have material. All material is moved to container for winter. We will have to wait until spring for this project.
- Rebecca has not heard from the scout so she is not sure if they are interested to help further.

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca

- Report from Rebecca - A meeting is set up in the first week of December with grant initiators. Lot of documentation to be submitted as we are in the initial stage. Once we sign the contract then it's all hands on deck since as we would like to engage as many volunteers as we can involve to get these crossings done. Work would most likely start during spring. Timeline is till December 2023 as there is a large imitation process.
- We will schedule work days and will be purchasing material. There will be a lot of work going on once we sign the contract.

Quarterly Newsletter

- We discussed if Mass Trails Bridges grant and work party information can be shared in newsletter. Rebecca said she will follow up once contract is signed to let us know if we can share it in the newsletter.
- Advanced notice about upcoming sprint project in the newsletter without signed contract might be too early. We would want to count the work towards newsletter in that project.

Rattlesnake Trail Marking Improvement

Trail Marking Improvement - Subcommittee of Rebecca, Hemali, Steve, Drew and Gordon met

- Update from Gordon - Gordon, Betsy, Steve, Drew and Hemali met at Bolton Bean with Rebecca. We made quite a few decisions and had a lot of good ideas. Gordon put notes in a document and sent it around to everyone who participated.
- We made good progress. There are still some things that we need to workout but main bones and structure is defined.
- Gordon proposed a second sessional Bolton Beans at some point or somewhere else.

Merrill Connection to Coventry Wood Road - Gordon

- Gordon has added this to maps and has been working on wooden signs for direction. Gordon has completed all that Dan Gaffney asked Gordon to do. Legal situation is still in limbo as state is involved. It takes time when state gets involved as there are not enough people in state.
- We discussed about parking. Rebecca pointed out that it will appeal more to local residents. Trail head is out of the way to get there for others.

- There is no parking unless there was a parking within the property. There is not enough space to get off the road near trailhead due to side walk.
- Rebecca said to keep the maps same as other properties where there is no parking. It would be treated similar to other property entrances where there is no parking. We can put "No Parking" sign. If people park there, they will get ticket. This is similar to Coventry Woods Road.
- Drew asked what wooden trail signs would say. If a person coming from Coventry wood Road and turn left, it would be "Rattle Snake Hill Trails" and the other way would say to "Old Sugar Road". Rebecca went over signs with the Trust and they were comfortable with them. There will be similar signage at the trail head as well. There will be no sign with "No Parking" similar to other trails.
- Select board meeting - Did they approve any signs or just the ones we submitted? Rebecca responded that they only approved the ones we submitted. Only Trail head signs and not the property signs. Rebecca will make the map signs and Gordon made some which are not put in place yet.
- Oaks-Ballville signs are also approved for future installation.
- At Rattlesnake, majority people park at Lime Kiln parking and use Bob Horton Trail . Drew proposes to update sign and markings for Bob Horton Trail. The map was created 40 years ago, It would be good to refresh of content and trail markings, logs, wood chips to make it obvious.
- Plant reviews - Rebecca said that if plants are there than to update signs, clearing away from number posts because sometimes you cannot see them as area is overgrown, and lining trail with log so when people hike, they would go on focused route. It is good project to redo. Marking the trail, we need to be careful to not put in wood chips, gravel, etc. Mark with fallen trees without impacting natural prospect off the trail. Fallen natural material is ok to use. Plants that are growing in that area might be impacted by wood chips.
- Hemali got in touch with Elizabeth. We discussed about that most of wildflower walk have been updated in 2019. She is more than happy to help out but can't walk the trail. Mid-April to May or early April are better time to go and identify the plants. We will have to help her. She can come to entrance and we can get picture and show her to confirm. Not all trees are marked. That is a project that can be completed for trees that are of interest. She was very excited that we reached out to her.
- Annuals move so consequently a marking has to be moved on annual basis. Bob and Elizabeth had started to physically mark the plants by using green ribbon or plastic tape instead of putting signs when annuals move from year to year.
- She purposefully not marking natives since people come and take natives from there. She thought it is better not to mark to protect them.
- Rebecca says using logs is better to mark the trail to protect the plants from being trampled by people who don't know the plants and walk over the trail.
- Rebecca thinks that it might stop people from taking rocks. Bob mentioned that he found pictures of that area in Bolton Archives from 1984. The rock looked blinding white. People took truckloads of rocks in the past. Now the Boltonite rock is mostly gone.

Taggart to Sand Rd Connection through Private Parcel - Rebecca

- Day after Thanksgiving walk went well. Temporary permission that was given for that walk will become permanent in future.
- Trail head signs: Rebecca will make map signs. Gordon also made a couple of them but have not put the signs yet.
- Oaks-Ballville area: Signs will be installed there similar to Taggart property.

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

Guidebook. 2024/2025 target updates:

- Trust is interested in selling guide books at the Bean and Bolton Bean is interested in having a little display for the sale of the book.
- We need a new QR code that takes directly to appropriate place to directly pay for the book and we need a new display for the books.
- Existing QR code asks to pay shipping fee. Liz can help with this.
- Display needs to be free standing, not very big, and it will go on a shelf where there is someone is selling books there. This display will go there. Shelf would be on the outside wall by windows.
- We discussed that we could put a logo for Bolton Trails Guide to attract people. Also, another idea was to keep a “sample copy” attached to a cable so it does not leave the Bean but can be browsed before purchasing the guide.
- They will keep books behind the counter and people will get them after showing confirmation that they have paid for the book.
- Gordon tried making logo with a router. It is easier said than done. Bob might be able to do it as he has done something similar to this. Gordon might also want to try this.

Guidebook. 2024/2025 target updates:

The list in the agenda is the target list that would get updated in the guidebooks.

- The Oaks (or should we call it “Ballville Trails”)
 - Rebecca, Gordon, Betsy and Liz met to discuss “Ballville Trails”. There is an opportunity to create a board walk as it is long to be connected to the bridge. It will be an interesting feature to see what is in our backyard. Conversation ended with suggestion to look into SVT or other properties to see what they have in terms of boardwalks.
 - Liz really liked the idea and she was going to discuss it further with Dan. Trust has money from golf tournament to use towards this project that can be used towards this project.
- Welch Pond trail to Sawyer Road
 - Betsy and Gordon have marked the trail using GPX. Based on GPX, it would go up the hill to get to Sawyer Road. Currently, if you keep walking it looks like a trail since its a cart path but you walk through private land. If we make the trail that stays on town land and mark it so hikers won’t cut through private land.
 - Question came up if we should check with private property owners before we make the new trail or should we just make the trail as it would be on conservation land. That part of the property is not in CR. They might want to build a house someday in that area.
 - Piece of land next to Haynes-wheeler is also not part of CR similar to this.
- Extended Rattlesnake - Merrill Connection
 - This can be taken off the list. New extension to Merrill Connection is done.
- Extended Taggart
 - That can be taken off as Rebecca is having conversation with someone about it.
- Horse Ring
 - This has to do with 580 Main Street development process. It is going through ConCom for wetland permit. Once it goes through that process ConCom will bring up that we would like to keep the trail. It goes over slave lane on the back side. We want keep these trails so working with landowners to get something in writing. Part of it is Lancaster-Hudson Railroad.

- Making connection to Berlin Road is potentially in progress. It is a separate project. Park and Rec is doing what they can to help Derby Field to connect to Berlin Road. Rebecca has walked a few times to create a GPS track. They are also working with school. More information will be available for January meeting.
- Focused area assessment approach that is focused on Derby field which is a recreation area. What else can be done in that area to connect to 580 Main Street and Berlin Road.

Walks and events

- Black Friday walk went well. There was a good turn out. There will be another walk towards the end of the month.
- Update from November Trust meeting
 - Next meeting will be on November 14 at 7:30 p.m. Drew has joined the Trust.
 - Some of the things are in progress. There is a potential connection to Derby Road and Berlin Road to Winery.
 - Bridge to north brook was discussed.
 - Hemali got access for Constant Contact accounts. I will set up volunteers list so we can send newsletter using this account.
 - They are enthusiastic about selling guidebooks at the Bean and potentially at the town hall. We have not discussed anything about Town Hall yet.

Volunteer project suggestions

- A scout is working for approval for a project at Bowers.
- Rebecca has not heard back from Scouts about Taggart and Fyfeshire projects.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities.

- Bowers
 - Invasive removal at Bowers - not much done this month, DPW will winterize brush hog. Rebecca says that it has found a home but Rebecca did not know where.
 - Scout project at Tom Denny - If first part of project is not enough to their group then they will add to it. Focus is on the camp area for the first part which is so run off and needs improvement. Second part would be to keep traffic off of the steep slope. Soil there is so compact that using material in that area is the best approach.
 - Tapes are ripped off of steep slope. Larry will go and tape it again. Rebecca says that we can invite volunteers to brush off the area with material that is present at site instead of taping.
 - We may plant something in future if people still keeps breaking through barriers. We should put a sign saying not to go there as we are trying to restore it.
- Wilder connection
 - Rebecca and Drew walked the area last month. Drew wants to make connection from bridge to nowhere to Wilder. It's a long boardwalk. It might be worth to make connection through Davis APR and a farm road if we approach them to ask for permission. If property owners give approval to walk through their land.
 - There is a walkway easement from pond to Wilder Road. It keeps falling off of priorities. That area is very grown in. We would just make it passable. Easement goes through pond and near house which is mostly under water and wetland area. It is not possible to go around without trail easement through private property.

- Greg, Drew, Betsy and Gordon met to spread wood chips. Big pile of wood chip is disappeared in matter of hours thanks to their efforts. Slope is still very steep. We will probably put some steps there.
- Oaks-Ballville trail
 - No work has been done in last few weeks. Gordon would like to go back with some tape and brush cutters to make the trail more clear. Drew would also like to go back there and do some work.
- Board walk project
 - Would we know where it should be or would we need to involve a company that specializes to finalize where boardwalk can be installed? Rebecca has looked at couple of options of where it should go. ConCom and Trust would decide if we need to hire a company to evaluate.
 - Liz will reach out to other land trusts to see what materials were used and what they have done in this area. Material is not disclosed yet but plan is to support horses and different user groups Conservation Trust will decide as they find more details. Trust will communicate to current property owners as it is over a CR.
 - DEP will need to approve it as its a wetland protection area.
 - Trail would be wide enough and would connect to Sawyer Road and if it connects Fyfeshire then it can go to Peach Hill Road which supports equestrian.
 - None of the trails on town land will be identified as horse friendly, bikes friendly or ADA compliant.

Other business

- Drew walked with Paul Mitchell. He wants to do trail improvements on the trail from woodside Drive. Area he wants to focus on is on private land. He wants to reroute. Rebecca reached out to property owners. They are comfortable with work being done in trail easement as long as it is trail maintenance work to repair/remediate trails. She has also emailed him about this.
- He also wanted to close portion between N and P as its really bad. Drew suggested M-N-O-P instead of M-N-P. Rebecca suggested to talk to ConCom. Potential to shift it south-west of the gully instead of shifting the path as its path of least resistance. Rebecca suggested a site visit to finalize this.
- Area between I and J is steep which needs to be brought up to ConCom. Can we do switch backs to avoid steep hill that is like a ski slope? Rebecca says to bring to ConCom as we need water bars if we are not moving that trail as it is very compacted at this point.
- Grace's bridge has some broken boards. We should document and fix them. Rebecca suggested to do a site visit and track or do a temporary flagging for a switch back and bring it to ConCom. Rebecca will organize site visit.
- "Summits of Bolton"
 - Drew wants to include summits in the hikes. He has a list of ten potential summits. Goal would be to hike Bolton summits at your own pace just like "All Trails Club". It would be nice to do monthly guided hikes or extra bonus on top of "All Trails Club".
 - Drew said that he has tried to find the summits that are on public land. Oaks-Ballville trail is not complete and the trail would go around homes that are on the summit. Zink Northwoods summit is not on trail.
 - Century Mill area - Rebecca said that it is still in progress. Winter work party within trail easement from development to Century Mill Road. Also working to get connection from Danforth to trail head that is in that area.
 - New Year's Day Walk - would we be doing this? Drew will talk to the Trust to coordinate it.
 - Winter Festival - If you want to do this then coordinate with Parks and Rec. They might be planning to do this in January
 - Rebecca reminded about open space survey update again. Please fill out survey. She is also looking for participants for the sub committee. It would probably take a year to update but reach out if you

are interested for this. You could send link by January 20. Trust can send a note as they have bigger reach. Drew will remind Liz.

Area Reviews

- Damaged bridge at Annie Moore has been there for a while.
- Rocky Dundee Road sign is approved by ConCom. We should put a sign there.
- Gould-White - Couple of trees requires more help to remove.
- Fyfeshire - tree down.
- Vaughn Hill has a reminder for Solomon memorial - Rebecca will get to that. Rebecca suggested to also walk to the bridge that is under water and move it to better location. We will need a few people. Only some of the material can only be used.
- Rebecca would organize a site visit at Vaughn Hills. We may split into two half day work parties.