

Minutes of the January 09, 2023 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Rebecca

- A scout has repaired the board. Material is ordered. We will wait until spring to start the repair.

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca

- All documents are submitted. Waiting for signed contract from the state. She anticipated first week in January for signature but it may take longer.
- It was anticipated earlier but we don't have a solid date. We may get signatures in next month or two.
- Rebecca will send emails to co-ordinate work dates and meet up once she gets signed contract from the state. Until then nothing counts towards the match.
- Rebecca and town administrator were told that Cindy does not want to be part of Bolton Trail committee or this project. Larry said that he will reach out to clarify it.

Trail Marking Improvement Subcommittee - what next?

- Sub-committee met and discussed about this.
- We received comments during New Year's Day walk with the Trust for trail markings at Rattlesnake.
- Meeting had a lot of improvements. We are wondering what to do next. Do we get together again?
- Narrow down to top suggestions and present to trust and ConCom before we go too far. Trust and ConCom will need to approve these changes.
- We will find a time that works for everyone and meet either at Town Hall or at Bolton Bean. Drew will send some dates. Steve, Hemali, Rebecca, Drew, Gordon and Betsy were part of committee. Larry would like to join.

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

- There is a display for guidebook at Bolton Bean. You can use QR code to pay via phone. The Bean would give the guidebook once a receipt is shown at front desk.
- Liz would be able to tell us if we sold any books.

Taggart to Sand Rd Connection through Private Parcel - Rebecca

- Rebecca is waiting for approval from property owner since they need to ask their siblings. Currently it does permit They provided need based approval for the walk. Currently access from back of Lancaster cemetery to Taggart is not officially approved even though people seem to use. Temporary approval was allowed for trail walk and will become permanent once approved. Use the access that is in the trail guide.

Guidebook sixth printing — updates from Gordon

- Supply of trail guide is running out. Sixth printing of existing trail guide. Current version would get an insert for Taggart. Gordon discussed with Liz and she suggested that we should add the insert in the sixth printing. Rebecca does not see any issue as long as private access is not part of that printing, Gordon will update Taggart map for sixth printing if that gets approved. We can wait for approval before printing the guidebook.

Guidebook. 2024/2025 target updates:

- Current plan is to add following in the next update of guidebook.
 - Ballville Trails
 - Horse Ring/Derby Field
 - Extended Powder House
 - Extended Taggart
 - Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road.
 - Someone cleared fallen trees on Welch Pond trail.

We discussed these other trails as potential to be part of next update

- Century Mills
 - This cannot be confirmed yet. CR needs to be approved which may be delayed and not be ready in time. Since this is a large update, Drew suggested that delaying trail guide update might be an option.
- Vinger-Vannable trail to get to Quaker triangle
 - This requires approval from ConCom, flagging and other work. This goes through middle of the field and goes through a different parcel.
 - This is the stretch that goes through wetland. ConCom needs to review as we are moving path to wetland area. It's possible that the trail was moved for a reason in past.
 - Path also will need to be cleared as its very overgrown.
- We discussed how often to print a new version. Do we print when something major to be updated.
 - In the past 2016, 2017 and 2018 versions were slightly different.
 - Ellie mentioned that a newly purchased guide cannot be made obsolete very quickly. For example someone person purchased a 2021 Guide and we publish new for 2022.
 - Rebecca mentioned that we could print something to hint that guide will be updated every 5 years so anyone who purchases knows to buy new version. Trust can use it to market new version of the guides.

Walks and events

- 25-30 people attended New Year's Day walk. Dan did a great job to engage people.
- 2023 summit series is posted on Conservation page of town website. Summit hikes that Drew proposed have been scheduled for end of the month each month. Drew will lead the hike on January 31 at 10 a.m. which will be for Wattaquaddock Hill.

Trust meeting report

- Trust meeting was on December 14. There is not much to update. They discussed New Year's Day walk and Merrill property. Merrill Connector paperwork came back from the state. Dan helped get final signatures.
- Liz might join Steering Committee meetings.

Volunteer projects. Suggestions

- Boy Scouts:
 - There is a list of projects that Boy Scouts can help with. Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, Wilder markings, Sullivan Memorial repair, Peach Hill bridge repair, The Oaks trash removal are some of those projects. Volunteers can also help if they would like to work in this area.
- Eagle Scout Project by Taggart bridge will be in spring.
- Fyfreshire bridge repair and other projects are also available.
- Rebecca has contact information for Boy Scouts. She has to sign off before they can do those projects.
- For Bowers project they are waiting for approval from their council. They will ask Rebecca for approval once they are approved by council. She will reach out if they need additional volunteers but as far as she knows they are planning to do that work with other scouts.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

- Bowers
 - Larry was running Invasive sessions last year.
 - The poop bag supply at Fyfreshire has run out. New bags have been ordered.
- Wilder
 - We discussed the new trail. If we will connect main wilder from the bridge, we will need to cross wetland hill so we should ask permission from private land owner. We will need to work with Trustees of Reservation, ConCom and any other private land owners. Initial thought was that there is a farm access road but it also requires permissions. Rebecca will check with Trustees of Property to see when they are going to the property and update them with plans. They were aware that we are looking for trail through conservation property and moving to upland area.
 - Easement runs along the common driveway and has not been maintained for a while so it is overgrown and trees are large so DPW cannot help. Rebecca is thinking of asking neighbors who have a brush hog to volunteer. One of the neighbors is a commission member.
 - Easement down to the trail to common driveway is on map so putting some signage at common driveway and keeping that trail open. You need to clarify that the section of land next to driveway is easement and not the driveway itself.
- Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
 - The Oaks Loop Trail - Drew, Gordon
 - Drew has been working on this trail. The loop is mostly complete. It is not fully marked yet. The work left is to pull small Blueberry bushes and other bushes that are on the trail. Final walk through with a work party is needed with lopers and clippers during spring.
 - Drew made a rough plan for new trail that would be an upland route and would go to the cave. Drew tried to skirt the upland side of the rocks. Someone needs to visit site and review the trail. Rebecca said that if the trail goes through upland side of big rocks that are riprap rocks then it is ok. Rebecca can go out with Drew and take a look in spring.
 - Gordon marked another route that does not go to the cave and is easy to walk for anyone who cannot hike challenging trail. If we can have two trails, then this one can be added.

Other Business

- Vaughn Hills Trail Improvements: Woodside Drive trail (segment M-N-P) and reroute near steep section (segment I-J)
 - Woodside Drive trail entrance is the same approach that was approved by ConCom

- Abutters are not comfortable with reroute outside of gully that exists. Original approval includes installing water bar strategically and spec out where they would go and she will schedule a work day in spring for that work.
- Rebecca needs to talk with ConCom about the small triangle adjustment to Woodside Drive (segment M-N-P) . It makes sense to close heavily gouged area and use steps around it to reduce erosion. Either close it or put water bar above and below it so water does not flow through it. Berms in the middle are significant that we cannot put water bars in the middle of it. Plan is to install above and below and review area in spring.
- Steep section around Moen (segment I-J) - This is steep section that is almost like a ski slope down to the brook. Rebecca says that it was marked with green flags on Rebecca's orange/silver striped flags to create a switch back to make it more gradual. Rebecca wants to get our feedback.
- Bolton Summits / Hills of Bolton - Drew
 - There is a planned walk on January 31 at 10 a.m. for Wattaquadock Hill on Philbin Salmon Trail.
 - Drew will put an article in the paper. Trust has agreed to fund hats for people that completed all summits.
 - Rebecca will ask fire department if they have photo of fire tower. It would be good to find all four summit markers.
 - Drew will create a form that can be submitted once they complete all the summits.
- Derby Field area Trails
 - Rebecca found plot plan for Derby field and found that the field is on town land. A site visit is needed. We will need to go to ConCom for permission even though there was an old trail since it has not been maintained. Since it also goes through municipal land, we also need to go to the select board.
 - Select board was very comfortable for Horse Ring field. They would want to know location.
 - This trail was on old trails guide book (3rd guide). A lot of the trails came from old Bolton fair. Different ways to get to the fair. One goes from behind the school to Berlin Road as a straight line.
 - There is quite a bit of frontage on Berlin Road. Large municipal lot where there can be trails to get through wetland and go to Berlin Road. Rebecca said that there is a well head radius and school wellhead radius on the dry side so you have to consider that.
 - Park and Rec is planning to improve Derby field and continue to use walking trails in that area. None of the renovation will impact trails but it's delayed due to discussion about access during sunset to sunrise and during school hours it is not open to general public.
- BCT has asked for suggestions for the location of benches.
 - Dan made a remark that we have money that can be used to put benches in suitable places around town.
 - A bench was donated to Liz since she participated in Bolton Bean's program that was sponsored by Trex to collect plastic bags. Bench is made up of trex which is recycled material. Liz mentioned that we should not use plastic bench. We should use environmentally sensitive material.
 - There is a bench on Zinc trail that was made by cutting a fallen tree on site. A tree has to fall in the right place to make similar bench at other potential sites. Alternatively, you can roll relatively good sized log to 100-200 yards to place it in right place. We could use one of the designs after dragging it.
 - Two questions that came out as where can we place benches and what would be the material.
 - Gordon sent a potential list of sites to place a bench. Rebecca said to keep a list of place and material for a project in future is a good idea.
 - Larry asked if material like Trex that is made by recycled plastic can be used. Rebecca brought up that anything made by recycling plastic can still leach material to earth over the years. It is better

not to introduce such material and to instead use natural materials for a bench for trails. Natural material does not leach anything and it composts over time.

- We would not be placing 100s of benches.
- Native wood like red oak, black locust, etc will last for many years as per Bob. Making a wood bench takes effort. Making a bench on site is easier when a tree falls.
- Plastic benches also not great in the middle of woods esthetically.

Area Review

- TrailCare app looked pretty clean.
- Few trees were reported on Rattlesnake. Gordon or Drew did not notice during the trail walk.
- Damaged memorial and posts - Rebecca was planning to take care of that.
- We discussed Gracie's bridge with broken planks. Broken planks have been reported frequently since 2016. It's not urgent.
- Fyfeshire is reported by Gordon. Hemali and Ketan moved it but this one still needs to be off the stone wall. Wattaquaddock also has another tree down around upper pond near far end where there is a small crossing.
- Gould-white has a tree that needs to be taken care of. A few others need to be reviewed before clearing from the app.

Constant Contact email and contact list

- We discussed if we want to add steering committee in constant Contact or keep it as a group name.
- We agreed that we should add that list to Constant Contact since that way we will have visibility instead of not knowing who is on there or not on the committee.
- We can also use it to send newsletter as well monthly meeting invites.