

Minutes of the April 03, 2023 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, Keith Silver

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca

- We are waiting for town meeting to get confirmation on match.
- Rebecca has been confirming pricing, going to various sites to measure crossings. Greg has sent measurements for Annie Moore.
- Rebecca mentioned that If we can't use material like dirt on site, we need to get good transition approach. For example, what material can be transported there.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Rebecca

- All material is in container. We are waiting for spring for favorable conditions.
- We will redo the footing. Rebecca has not heard from one of the scouts. Date is not final yet but we can do it if scout does not respond in time.
- Bob has talked with the scout - William Snider. Scout is interested. A communication between scout and Rebecca would be helpful as he thinks that the project is not ready. He will need drawings as well.
- Bob has provided design. We need sledge hammer and few large crow bars. There would be an outrigger so we will not need to dig out. A posthole digger is the best way to do this but ground will be wet at this point. There is a happy medium between not frozen and not early spring mud. Early summer or late spring.

Trail Marking Improvement Subcommittee - presentation to ConCom - Rebecca

- Rebecca heard back from mass correction agency . They can only do metal markers. Rebecca is looking to get bulk pre-cut plastic markers. Other option is we get plastic and cut them. She found a company in west but it's not finalized yet. Please share information with Rebecca if anyone knows about a company that does this would be helpful.
- Gordon says that may be Leominster has some place that does this. Original ones were donated but that company shut down.
- Drew mentioned that Umass Lowell has a plastic program. They might want to do this. Rebecca can reach out Umass Lowell.

- Bob might have an option with a machine that his daughter in law has. This machine that cuts 2.4 inch plastic. Volume and cost of cutting is probably large. First we need an estimate.

Guidebook Sixth Printing - Gordon

- Gordon has it ready to go. Gordon, Eli and Liz has agreed to print 50 copies once Gordon is back from vacation. That way there will be plenty for sale at Backyard Bolton. There are 18 unsold copies-2 here, 5 at town hall and 8 at the Bean. Sales have been slow at the Bean.
- Liz will print new QR code based on BoltonTrails.org since old one does not work.
- Sixth printing has Taggart, updated All Trails Club information, new set of base maps.

Walks and events

- Drew led last walk. Overall good turn out despite the rain and six non-committee members, some of them turned around due to rain.
- Drew suggested to take a break one month and not do Summit Series. Instead have a trail walk at Ballville, or Oaks, etc.
- Rebecca suggested there are one or two months during summer when most people are out of town. That would be good time to set up trail walk that Drew and Gordon would like to plan.
- April 15-22 is town wide cleanup. April 20 Rebecca is doing STEM activity at library.

Scheduling during school vacation week would be a good idea.

- Rebecca will send a flyer.

Trust meeting report

- There has not been a meeting last month.
- A trust annual meeting is being planned but not scheduled yet but it might be in May. A trail walk close to where the annual meeting gets planned.

Volunteer projects. Suggestions

- Boy Scouts: Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, Sullivan Memorial repair, Peach Hill bridge repair, The Oaks trash removal...
- Eagle Scout Project at Taggart Entrance (Bridge)
 - Waiting for scouts to find a day and do it but that project is assigned and ready to go.
- Peach Hill bridge repair: Stringers are rotting where they meet the ground. If we fix that then the bridge is good.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

- Bowers
 - Larry is going to make a new invasive sessions map to discuss with ConCom.
 - Eagle Scout project near TDNC area
- Wilder; Anything new on the trail route
 - Common driveway

- Trustees land - Rebecca is trying to get in touch with the Trustees but hasn't been successful.
- Signage
- Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
 - The Oaks Loop Trail - Drew, Gordon, Larry
 - Most of the trail is ready. Gordon said that they need advice for the route by the Cave area. Drew will contact Rebecca and set up a site visit to finalize that area.
 - Rest of it is ready except for blazes.
 - Parking - There might be one or two places on Ballville Road, but Rebecca needs to verify if this is within public right of way. It needs to be approved by the Public Way Safety Committee and Select Board for parking in those areas.
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 - Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew, Gordon
 - Gordon wrote a proposal about the connection to Fyfeshire on the International land. Option 2 was selected by the Trust.
 - Drew will do more work while Gordon is away.
 - Proposal can be found below.
 - <https://boltontrails.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/North-Brook-crossings-proposals-4.pdf>

Other Business

- Vaughn Hills Trail Improvements: Woodside Drive trail (segment M-N-P) and reroute near steep section (segment I-J)
 - This work can be started. Rebecca will schedule a work party date and rain date for Woodside Drive trail
 - Drew asked if Paul Mitchell can be notified about work party as he is interested.
 - Neighbors were also interested so Rebecca will send emails to them.
- Bolton Summits / Hills of Bolton
 - Three people on opening weekend. More people will participate once the weather gets better.
 - Drew wants to do a facebook post. Rebecca will print out something that can be brought as promotion to various events.
- Spring Backyard Bolton May 13
 - We will participate. Drew and Gordon would help. Trust will have a presence. Rebecca will print updated trail maps. Rebecca will be at Open Space Trails committee table. Bob will be there with Master Plan committee.
 - Drew requested to include new section for Taggart on the map.
- Chainsaw training
 - Bob will be able to do chainsaw training. Send an email to volunteers to get an idea on who is interested.
 - This can be added to the quarterly newsletter.

Quarterly newsletter

- Work parties
- Fyfeshire Bridge Repair
- Bridges work

- Invasive clean up
- Summit series
- Guidebook updates
- Chainsaw training

Deferred business

- Potential updates for Guidebook-2024/2025:
 - Ballville/International Trails
 - Derby Field/Horse Ring
 - Extended Powder House
 - Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road.
 - Vinger-Venable route correction.
 - Century Mill
 - Tom Denney hike route
 - Bolton Hills
- We discussed some of them below.
- Century Mills Update
- Horse Ring/Derby Field area Trails
 - Going to be on ConCom agenda for April 13. There might be a work party once that gets approved.
 - Gordon says that there is a way to get to Indian maiden's leap and from there to Old Bay Road, but it might need landowner agreement (Nancy Caisse).
 - It would nice to be able to walk from town center to Old Bay Road without walking on Wattaquodock Hill Road.
- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road
 - We need to go to ConCom since its on town land. Gordon and Betsy has sent tracks to Rebecca in 2020. If we get tracks approved by ConCom then Rebecca can continue communication and get this project in progress.
 - Rebecca will ask assessors as one of the two maps show that it goes to right of way and the other map does not, but crosses private land.
- Vinger-Venable route correction
 - This trail will need to be discussed with the private property owner that owns that part of the property before doing trail marking. Rebecca said that first we should look into all the options and then bring it up to the Commission.
 - It used to be that we could make a break in the wall, this is not ok anymore for historical preservation reasons. We need to protect stone wall.
- Bench locations; suggestions
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Area Review

<https://www.trailcare.com/map>

- vinger-venable
 - Beavers have been very active. Huge lodge next to the trail and has built a nice dam. Beavers have been up there for a while. Last year Rebecca has cut the “rain forest”. Beaver deceiver was brought up in discussion. There was not a significant change. So, Beaver deceiver will not work.
 - Beaver deceiver - we may have to check with the town.
- Gould White
 - Looks good. Someone has gone and has done some work.
- There is a tree that needs chainsaw.
- Fyfeshire
 - Gordon has marked a possible blockage-

Oaks

* There were a couple of trees that need to be cleared. There is a tree under pile of brush. There is one more that Betsy has marked twice.

* Taggart

* Rebecca is waiting to hear from Lancaster.

Town common - That part belongs to Parks & Recreation. We have to check with them before clearing up anything.

Rattlesnake - There are a couple of trees that require a chainsaw but its hard to get there.