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## Minutes of the August 7, 2023 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

### *Attendees:*

*Rebecca Longvall, Bob Roemer, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Andrew Schaubhut, Steve Rothman, Keith Silver*

*Chairperson - Larry*

*Note taker - Hemali*

### **Summer Backyard Bolton. Aug 26, Sept 16**

- Gordon, Betsy, Hemali and Drew will help on August 26.
- Larry and Drew will help on September 16.
- No special preparation is needed.
- Gordon will bring the About 12 copies of Guides for sale.
- Drew has everything to set up the table and maps. Gordon will borrow display for the Guides from Bolton Bean.

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

- Materials are being ordered by Rebecca.
- Keith and Gordon has volunteered to lead this project. Drew might also help lead after the first one. Larry might help with the future projects.
- Rebecca will provide the information to them.
- We discussed that Cindy and other members of Bolton equestrian community might like to help since this project came from them. Someone suggested breakfast at the Beans with them. Keith might bring some that he has connection with.
- Moen Bridge will be done first as it is the shortest and closest to parking lot. Bridge to be constructed this fall.

### **Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Rebecca**

- Material is ready in the container for this project.
- Scout that showed interest has not responded so Rebecca said that anyone can organize this during fall once there are drier conditions.
- We need to put holes in and put concrete in so we need drier condition so project is on hold.

### **Trail Marking Improvement - Rebecca**

- Rebecca is ordering material for this project.
- Material is based on proposal and different shapes for colorblind and visually impaired.
- Drew will check with Rebecca about requirements and what is being ordered.

## Walks and events

- Gordon is leading walk on September 29 at Danforth at 2 p.m.
- Rebecca made a flier that gets published on Trust and Next Door, Library, Bolton orchard, etc.
- We can also send via Constant Contact.
- Did anyone go to Camp Resolute. Bob heard that they were going to charge \$20 per family. Bob is saying we should check with Parks and Rec about how they are promoting.
- November hike was proposed to be done on Black Friday. That hike is at Annie Moore.

## Trust meeting report - Drew

- Talked about Oak Trail easement - Drew has contacted one of the home owners who responded and received a slight response and has agreed to review the site together. Meeting date is yet to be decided.
- North Brook Trail combined going from Oak Trail to Fyfeshire. Easement language and plans are sent to Gordon and Betsy. Kelly who works for Escalante Group says that language already covers and it is very vague so we are contacting Another Trust Board Director, Steve Altmann who is property lawyer is being consulted to confirm the language. Betsy said that If you are closer than 50 feet within contiguous wetland than its within ConCom jurisdiction. Brook is very clear in plenty of places but not in all of the places.
- Bob asked about Callahan Land. There has been no Response to the Trust. Bob will be running into him so he will check with Pete Callahan.
- Welch Pond to Sawyer Road - ConCom talked about the sign at Welch Pond. Nicewicz Farm has placed a sign about no one should go from WelchPond to Sawyer Road. There should be also on the other end. Drew has explained to Dan that we could save quite bit of trail work for connector if there is a language or a hand shake agreement to allow access to Sawyer Road. Dan will talk with Ken about this.
- Conservation land that has been added along Quaker Lane and former Laplante land near the Common is becoming conservation land pending approval from select board. ConCom agreed to take that on. 18 acre parcel on S. Bolton Road near Century Mills that would be Conservation Land once the development is done. There are a few properties that are for auction but they are scattered through out the town and are not of much conservation value.

## Volunteer projects.

- Boy Scouts: Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, repair, Peach Hill bridge repair (needs ConCom approval), The Oaks trash removal, Wilder Map Sign, Rattlesnake Bog bridge, etc., are kept for Scouts.

- Bob suggested that we should have a meeting with the Scouts and go through the entire list might be helpful and getting an idea of which project would they like to do and who will do and when.
- All the projects are within jurisdiction and requires wetland filing, etc. Any new project requires approval and review.
- Drew will follow up with the Scout Master.

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

- Bowers
  - Invasive plants project - Larry and Jan Johnson has removed Buckthorn from two sections between two ponds. Larry shared a map to show the area.
  - Larry also showed about the areas that still has Buckthorn. They are placing the pile at the lower pond. Rebecca will decide if it gets composted or DPW will take care of it. Buckthorn is 3 feet high and They are sawing it down. They don't know if that contains it or eradicate it but this helps keep it contained.
  - Rest of marked areas need work to control Poison Ivy and remove BitterSweet.
  - Poison Ivy near Norway Spruces are maintained by cutting back.
  - Area 4 is pretty rough and muddy as per Drew. Larry will scope out and big things can be prioritized and work date can be planned.
  - Drew asked if a date can be planned and shared during Backyard Bolton. Big projects need long term planning.
  - Eagle Scout project near TDNC area Steep slope where there is plan for planting. They need site visit by ConCom regarding material and placement of trees, etc.
- Wilder
  - Common driveway
  - Trustees land - Rebecca said that she is waiting for response.
- Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
  - The Oaks Loop Trail - Drew, Gordon, Larry
  - Nothing new has happened in last two weeks.
  - Gordon's estimate of trail marking for Oaks Loop is about couple of mornings. It is very close. Arrows and clearing of the trail that has been growing during this summer.
  - Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfreshire - Drew, Gordon - discussed earlier.

### **Volunteer newsletter - Hemali**

- There are a lot of topics that needs to be reduced. Send a newsletter to be reviewed and then we can send a copy.
- Trust is ok to send letter to Trust members, too.

### **Wildflower Walk - Hemali**

\* Sorting and identifying plants from the pictures. Hemali will send something to review once I have an organized list that

### **Other Business**

- Vaughn Hills Trail Improvements: Woodside Drive trail (segment M-N-P) and reroute near steep section (segment I-J)

- Rebecca has not shared with anyone. Projects are ready to go if someone wants to lead.
- Bolton Summits / Hills of Bolton

### Area Review

- <https://www.trailcare.com/map>
- Zink-Northwoods - There is a tree down. Keith and Gordon took care of some trees and Drew has also taken care of a few trees on that property.
- Working on private property in that area requires contacting home owners prior to work.
- Couple of trees requires chain saw.
- We do not remove any trees in Harvard or other towns.
- An old bridge that requires repair. Keith can help fix that one by removing broken boards and replacing them if there are Trex in container.
- Powder House - Drew might take care of the tree.
- Someone has tried to convert a down tree for mountain bike trail at Vinger-Venable.
- Overgrown McGourty Trail needs trail work. Gordon brought up that new owners of Taylor property might be able to donate the trail to Town as people already hikes that area.
- Welch Pond also needs Weed Whacker as its overgrown.
- Rebecca is in process of getting new Brush hog that can be used for weed whacking.
- Danforth and Keyes Farm also need trail works. Bridge at Danforth need repair. This bridge gets washed away from time to time. This bridge repair is needed before the walk in September.
- Gordon says to wait since we are in growing season.

### Deferred business

- Century Mills Update
- Horse Ring/Derby Field area Trails
  - Trail is approved to go behind Sawyer and go across winery. Drew has flagged it. Rebecca has reviewed and approved it. Drew is planning to work on it along with Dan Cohen.
  - This will connect to Old Railroad bed over to school ground and goes behind soccer field.
  - It won't be going to Flatly Building.
- Bench locations; suggestions — no update.
- Guidebook for 2024/2025: Potential target updates when we do major updates.
  - - 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

Note: Ed Sterling sent an email about a video from 1920 International area at Bolton Airport with planes taking off and landing. Also a map of the airport at the area that is now the International.