
Minutes of the July 10, 2023 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Summer Backyard Bolton

- Next two dates are Aug 26 and Sept 16.
- Hemali, Betsy and Gordon can help on August 26. Drew can help on both dates.
- Drew has previous map. He is asking for trail map again.
- Drew proposed that we share Oak Trail loop and Derby Field trail during Backyard Bolton.
- If Derby Field is done, that can be added to the map.
- Drew asked if we should share before the area near Nancy's field is finalized. It was decided that we should be able to share as the trail is on official path.
- Gordon shared that it seems like one of the property owner seems to have done survey. They found property markers that were recently placed. One of them was right next to a sign for "Dead End".

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca

- Media outreach packages have been completed, along with property signs for awareness of grant/project (will be posted to trail heads).
- This is similar to other projects like Nashua River project. This project requires us to notify them about the progress and work done.
- Temporary signs are ready. Formal signs for the trail heads will be done later.
- If someone is interested in leading one (or two) of the crossing build efforts this fall I will purchase materials (now that we are in FY24) and begin coordinating/scheduling that work party.
- Rebecca has flagged them all but due to the timeline, she can help now if someone wants to lead.
- Gordon said that he can help if someone will provide guidance on how to build them.
- Rebecca mentioned that crossing specs done by DCR that meets the criteria that we need and details like location, the requirements on area, as well as how to build will be part of the package.
- They are planned and ordered based on how easy or difficult they are. Easiest and shortest bridge is expected to be done first. Rebecca mentioned that if someone has preference then she will work with them.
- Please tell Rebecca as Rebecca will provide more details to anyone who is interested to lead one of the projects. Mass Trails grant requires to use specific sign up sheets. She will share those with you.
- Tools required would be part of the discussion.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Rebecca

- No new updates on this.
- If someone is interested in leading this effort I am happy to coordinate/schedule a work party.
- Rebecca has not heard back from previously interested scouts on this matter.
- We have all the materials in the Conservation Container (Town Hall) for this project.
- We are awaiting slightly dry weather as well, as the water levels will impact ability to install footings properly.
- Right now there is a lot of standing water so we do need to wait.
- Steve Snider's son is the scout. Bob has reached out one more time to Steve.
- Rebecca can help organize and advertise a work party if someone is interested to lead the project.

Trail Marking Improvement - Rebecca

- There has been no feedback from engineering school that Drew was looking into.
- This is FY24 so we should be ordering arrows.
- Rebecca will ask other officers from nearby towns to see if anyone can share a contact.
- This could be one of the major thing that go in next guidebooks.

Walks and events

- Next "scheduled" guided walks are September - Danforth, and November - Annie Moore (Rebecca will be out on leave) if anyone is interested in taking on one or both of these walks Rebecca will be happy to assist in Coordinating/scheduling and creating relevant outreach information.
- Additionally, Rebecca will provide the lead individual(s) with property information in narrative form that they may utilize as they guide the walk.
- Dates can be selected based on weather, holidays and availability.
- Gordon will help for September event.
- Steve told us that there used to be an airstrip at Danforth.
- There are no routes recommended. Stay on trail and start at the right place but you can select any route.
- Rebecca will put on flyer that Danforth is difficult terrain.
- Annie Moore will be done during November.
- Drew asked if we will get permissions to park extra cars.
- Rebecca typically send an email to DPW and police so they know that this event is going to be an hour or two. She also asks DPW which side of the street and which street to park as they might have preference.
- Drew will lead November hike and will make it on Black Friday.

Trust meeting report

- There was no meeting last month. There will be one on Wednesday.

Guidebooks

- 50 copies were printed. We can sell the newer ones at Backyard Bolton as they are better and has more information.

- New guidebook has Taggart and new updates for many trails.

Volunteer projects suggestions.

- Boy Scouts: Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, repair, Peach Hill bridge repair (this project needs permits by conservation commission - It will require NOI), The Oaks trash removal...
- Below are the projects already permitted and authorized by the Conservation Commission. They are ready to work on and will stay on the agenda.
 - Vaughn Hill Woodside Drive TrailHead – removal of post, sand trail sign, repaint trail sign, install water bars utilizing material from site as previously approved locations.
 - Vaughn Hill - reroute steep section with restoration work to include switchback.
 - Ongoing Bowers Spring Flanagan Road Trail Head – Invasive Species removal, maintenance of Norway spruce line/removal of invasive plants and encroachments, maintenance of tree islands within field areas
 - Welch Pond – Trail extension to Sawyer Road
 - Schartner has not said anything. On accessor's map, its most recent update. It does not have access to Sawyer Road. We can't put signs
 - Derby extension to Berlin Rd (Drew is lead on this effort) Rebecca will review flagged location this week prior to any work carried out in this area.
 - Approved signs for Goose Pond Path needs to be installed outside the right of way.
 - Bog bridge on Rattlesnake is also approved.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

- Bowers
 - Invasive removal Sessions (Larry working on update to mapping/project areas)
 - Eagle Scout project near TDNC area **No update yet**
- Wilder; Anything new on the trail route
 - Common driveway
 - Trustees land Received contact information and further insights
- Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
 - The Oaks Loop Trail - Drew, Gordon, Larry
 - Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew, Gordon
 - Permissions from selectmen might be needed to place a sign.
 - More arrows are done.
- Gordon mentioned that we can add list of maps that need to be done.
- Gordon also brought up a few other trails.
 - Vinger-Venable - There is a lot of overgrowth. This trail needs to be fixed as map and trail are impossible to follow. Trail gets overgrown pretty quickly.

- Beaver activity has also altered the area and we need to adjust trail to account for that.
- Ballville is done so we can take that out and this project can be replaced.
- Betsy said that the loop part needs to be completed before calling Ballville Trail done.
- Drew asked who mows the cemetery by shared driveway at Vinger-Venable. It might be an abutter in the area as DPW does not mow it.

Volunteer newsletter - Hemali

- List of projects and informations to share for July newsletter.
 - Rainforest at Randall-Vinger.
 - New discovery at RattleSnake that was shared by Bob.
 - Summit series statistics - Drew will send some information. Overall numbers are less than 10. We can say that last two months, we had x number of people.
 - Greg's article and the fact that he completed in a day. Link on website. Ask Greg.
 - Sign about how to report an issue on trail.
 - Survey and photo contest for Wildlife inventory
- Drew will check at Trust meeting if we can send the newsletter.
- EagleScout project by Taggart entrance - Forbush into property, updates to signs, and remediation planting at the property. Hemali mentioned that we should post this on website and provide a link in the newsletter. They will send a copy of report which will have images. She will send it once she has that information.

Wildflower Walk - Hemali

- Hemali checked if the document shared by Drew is the same document that was done by Neil.
- This document lives somewhere on website.
- Our plan is to provide an updated version of this.
 - Hemali can send updates to what she knows. We will need to work with Bob and Rebecca to get a version that has been updated in 2023.
 - Hemali has plants identified but she is organizing them so they can be shared with this group.
 - Bittersweet and multiflora roses are taking over the area. Hemali will meet with Rebecca to check how to clean up and then we can clean up.
 - Signage - pictures with latin names and common names on the signs.
 - Bob mentioned that when its confusing to figure out which plant matches the name displayed. They cut a small surveyor's tape and used it to mark the plants that match the name.

Other Business

- Vaughn Hills Trail Improvements: Woodside Drive trail (segment M-N-P) and reroute near steep section (segment I-J) **(noted above in volunteer projects)**
- Bolton Summits / Hills of Bolton
- Rebecca got response back from Trustees. Rebecca has asked more questions based on their response. Rebecca still need to discuss with private property

owner. The Trustees did not have significant objections so this project is moving in right direction.

Area Review

- <https://www.trailcare.com/map>
- Powderhouse Road
 - Gordon cleaned up trees near old Powder house.
- Keith cleared trees area near Quail Run.
- Gordon cleared area near Zink.
- Gordon needs help to clear trees that are bigger. Keith would be able to help.
- Brush pile near Oaks has been there since February. This one is near the shed. They will need to be pulled out.
- One of the trails is overgrown.
- A small tree at Gould-White near the edge of public land.

Deferred business On agenda but no action at this time

- Century Mills Update
 - There is a development that was near it that they are proposing. A good amount of conservation area was mentioned and the intention was trails. Drew will see if he can find information to share.
- Horse Ring/Derby Field area Trails
- Bench locations; suggestions
- Potential target 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