
Minutes of the June 8, 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

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca

- All the trail crossings are marked. Rebecca will break out and confirm measurements over next few weeks. Goal is to get material for one or two crossing of them will be done by fall. Rebecca is getting outreach and media packages ready so outreach is easier. If anyone is interested to lead, let Rebecca know so, she can share packages with volunteer leader when they are ready.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Rebecca

- Material is ready but Rebecca has not heard from William, the scout that is interested. Rebecca or Bob have not heard back. Rebecca will try to contact once again before sending out email to set up a work party for this project if scout does not respond.

Trail Marking Improvement - Rebecca

- Waiting to get response from Drew's contact. Rebecca will order plastic shape material and find someone who can help cut it for us. ConCom prefers plastic signs.

Guidebook Sixth Printing - Gordon

- Guides are printed. Gordon is waiting to hear from printer so we can buy from him. We buy 50 at a time. We can get better price if we bought 250. Trust does not buy that many as we might not be able to sell that many.
- All Trail Club application is updated to include Taggart Summit and Taggart is added in guide.

Walks and events

There was a successful at the end of month. No new walks until September. It is purposefully not planned since many people are on vacation and less people join the hike.

- If you are interested to lead hike between September and December when Rebecca is away, please let her know. She can provide support by printing the flyers ahead of time and making sure that the person who will cover for her can post it on town

website ahead of the hike support by providing site information to help lead the hike.

- Powder House had a low turn out during April.

Trust meeting report

- Discussed Backyard Bolton as meeting was right before the event.
- Oak Trail loop was discussed.
- North Brook Trail - Kelly from Escalante needs to approve official route. She wants all the fields on it so she can do blanket license for farmers that want to use fields and Trust that want to use the trail under one document. Drew has sent everything that he got from Gordon.
- Gordon heard that there is friction between the farmers.
- Horse Ring trail - Meeting on June 20 to discuss this.
- Summit Series has good feedback from kids.
- Annual meeting is on June 11. An email was sent.
- Trails Committee newsletter. Dan will take final look. But it can definitely be sent to whole list.

Volunteer projects list

- Boy Scouts: Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, Sullivan Memorial repair, Peach Hill bridge repair, The Oaks trash removal...
- Eagle Scout Project near Taggart Entrance (Bridge) - Eagle Scout is finishing this project soon.
- Sullivan Memorial is done and can be taken off the list. Also take it off the TrailCare if it is still there.
- Bridge at Fyfeshire going to Peach Hill Road, Berlin requires notice of intent so it's not ready to work on yet.
- List is maintained by Rebecca
- Rebecca wants to see if someone would like to lead Vaughn Hill Project as the project is ready to go. She will order material.
- Trash removal at Oaks - trash is still there. There is a fiber glass cigar-store Indian lying on their land. Other trash like old office chair, tablet and other electronics, etc., that needs to be moved. It's added to list if someone wants to do this cleanup.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

- Bowers
 - Larry has asked to get brush hog delivered so he can start working on PI and bittersweet on the side of margins
 - Meadow near parking lot has been mowed. DPW mows a small section for access.
 - Area where we did experimental treatment has not been mowed. Larry asks if we can do another organic treatment. Rebecca says it's ok. Area needs to be treated until it stops coming back.

- Part along Norway spruce line needs to be cleared. It requires 2 people to lift branches and someone uses mower to clear area under it.
- Larry will clear area along the margin.
- Town hires a contract person that helps with rest of the mowing during late July through fall.
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- Eagle Scout project near TDNC area - One of the counselors at camp is leading that project. We won't have any update until July. Project is to restore the area used by camp and restoring area
- Ropes are gone in the area that was roped off. Rebecca will rope it again.
- Wilder
 - Common driveway - No updates.
 - Trustees land connector - No update. Rebecca also reached out to contacts in other towns, and got numbers from them but still no response from the Trustees.
 - Main trail is becoming overgrown — clearance was needed.
 - Drew has used a weed whacker and taken care of that area.
 - Connection to Goose Pond is open as wood chips are doing their job.
 - If someone would like to go with weed whacker, it can still use some work.
 - Larry asked about a trail from residential loop to 117, and want to connect to rail bridge to go to 117. Is there a way to avoid walking on 117. Rebecca said that its private property. There was no loop trail planned for that area.
- Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
 - The Oaks and Ballville Trails - Drew, Gordon, Larry, Rebecca
 - Gordon shared a map with details on work done and what is left to do. Map is on HQ page and attached to meeting agenda.
 - Rebecca and Gordon walked and found path that is more appropriate.
 - Gordon has taken GPS location for the rock outcrop and the cave. It appears that they are on private land. New route goes below them and is on conservation land.
 - Signs are needed for major junction. Arrows have been added on majority of trail.
 - Part of the route that is on by BCT easement is taken over by houses. They have lawn in the area as part of their yard.
 - Tree to keep people to stay off the lawn. Rebecca cautions to allow things like lawn on the easement and taking down trees to adjust for that has consequences.
 - Allowing to maintain an area on easement which restricts access for people since it becomes part of their yard can lead to other properties where people might want to do similar change.
 - Downside is that this easement is not marked properly. It is hard to know.
 - A survey of that area would be helpful. There is no clear boundary at this point.
 - There are no surveyors that Rebecca know of anyone. Engineering companies have surveyors.
 - First house has building too close to the trail, second one had trash. If existing easement was open, it would make a nice loop.

- Oak Trail is the name of property. Area that will have additional trails will be called Ballville.
- Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew
 - Preference has been given to the trail that goes through the trail Rebecca marked and connects to the Fyfeshire via Haynes-wheeler property. Trust, Escalante and everyone has to make a proposal and then presented to ConCom to be voted to be approved.
- Vinger-Vannable - Rainforest has overgrown. Needs to be weed whacked.
 - Drew is working with Trust to finalize and get reviewed

Volunteer newsletter - Hemali

- An example of newsletter to be sent to Dan. He will review it to decide if we can send this newsletter to everyone.
- List of people whose newsletter bounced. Do we need to get new email from them? Hemali will check if we need to reach out to anyone to get updated email
- Send a newsletter in July.
- We will also plan to send one to the Trust mailing list. Trust has not sent a newsletter for a while. We can confirm the mailing list to be used with Liz.

Wildflower Walk - Hemali

- Hemali goes every 2 weeks to check the status of plants. Most plants on map are still present.
- A lot of poison Ivy and bittersweet and multiflora roses in that area.
- It can be hard to tackle the area where these plants that we want to conserve also are growing. Rebecca said that it would be a supervised work day or do more cutting than pulling. And removing when plants are growing. Once area is documented, we can remove plants.
- Bob goes out once a year and cleans up around sign board, kiosk and multiflora roses. It is a one day job.
- Hemali to plan a day to clear up unwanted plants.
- Drew-Anything else to be edited. Most of the walk should be left as it is.
- Drew asked about the stakes that hold 4 by 4. Can we make current stakes more mobile?
- Signage - Do we want to put the signs now? We also need to figure out how to do signs. Permanent signs are not great are not great. Steel plates and laminated signs off of them have worked good. Laminations could be better than what was done.

- A standard format to laminate labels so, they remain water proof and put information on both sides.
- Drew has question about the word document. Numbers on Bob Horton Walk discuss about the word document that describes wild meadow and apple tree.
- Rebecca mentioned that the narrative that describes the edge habitat and other features for the trail, also provides history of property. It would be better to add to the document describing current condition instead of modifying the document.
- Bob mentioned that the document has been written by a well-known author and biologist, Neil Jorgensen, who lived in Harvard and put together drawing and write ups for this guide. His knowledge and fame with Sierra Club and other guidebooks is significant.

Other Business

- Next meeting would be on 3 July public holiday. It was proposed to delay until 10 July.
- **Keyes Farm Trail**
 - This trail is in need of some TLC. It has not been used much and there are many obstructions.
 - Gordon has been the only person who has visited recently. Steve said that developers were supposed to do clean up. Rebecca mentioned that they still don't have final close out.
 - Do not touch any metal equipment, trail is passable and clear any trees that are down to maintain the trail.
- **Vaughn Hills Trail Improvements:** Woodside Drive trail (segment M-N-P) and reroute near steep section (segment I-J)
 - Woodside Drive is flagged out. Work party will be scheduled by Rebecca. She would like to be present for the part of it to make sure water bars go in the right location and to be there just in case abutters or trail users have any questions.
 - Re-route of steep section is flagged and is good to go. This can be scheduled at any time.
 - Tree down from pond to Bare Hill. There are 3 trees down. There is now a desired path around. It requires a tree surgeon to take care of trees.
 - Greg would help if we decide to clear up ourselves.
- **Chainsaw training**
 - No update, This is up to the Trust.
 - Last time card was signed by the Trust and Rebecca. Rebecca cannot sign off the class. Only Trust can sign once training is done.
 - Chainsaw training should not be signed off until training was provided by the town directly.
 - Bolton is unique where it allows volunteers to help with chainsaw work. Most other towns do not allow it around us.

- Bob suggested to identify 3-4 people who had training before to update the training. The Trust can sign off.
- Bob can talk with Steve if we get names of people who wants to do this training.

Boy Scout Camp

- Boy Scout Camp has come to discuss potential CR on some portion of property with Town and have reached out to Bolton Recreation Department to have Bolton involved in Boy Scouts Camp.
- Bob has taken with Don and a small team has been put together to discuss and a plan to become collaborative in the beginning.

Deferred business

No discussion was done on deferred business below.

- Century Mills Update
 - Horse Ring/Derby Field area Trails
 - Bench locations; suggestions
 - Guidebook 2024/2025 potential target 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