

Minutes of the March 13, 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

- Rebecca has done pricing for material.
- Next week she will go out to review all approaches that were included in the proposal to check that parking areas are also accessible in addition to the crossings.
- Greg looked at Annie Moore crossing area to give feedback for measurements. Rebecca will go and review it.
- There are no other updates at this time and no changes to last month's update yet.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair – Rebecca

- No further updates at this time. We will need to wait until spring to replace footing.
- Peach Hill bridge (build by Teresa and Kenyon) needs repair as it is tilting.
- Drew said that while walking from new sushi restaurant to Fyfeshire he saw a sign that says trail is closed but nothing indicating it.
- Rebecca responded that the bridge is passable but the sign still stays as temporary footing needs to be replaced.

Trail Marking Improvement Subcommittee - presentation to ConCom - Rebecca

- Gordon asked if we can start work on this. No action to be taken at the moment until a formal vote from ConCom on material and cost.
- Rebecca is working with MassCore for materials, shapes and costs. Once she has an estimate, she will bring it up to ConCom for a formal vote. Once there is a formal vote, more work can be done.
- ConCom wants to explore unique shapes for color blind individuals.
- Rebecca has reached out to MassCore with the shapes that we had as an example.
- The price that is being used to purchase signs carry basic shapes. Bob Horton trail is not included as stickers with arrows are already present. Minutes from sub-committee meeting were sent around last month.
- Gordon sent an alternate shape which can be made by chopping up corners of a triangles if we needed one more shape.
- Rebecca will update once there is a formal vote.

Guidebook 2024-2025

- Ballville/International Trails
 - Bob and Rebecca has reviewed the site specific to newer extension of the oaks/rock area.
- Horse Ring
- Extended Powder House
- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road
- Vinger-Venable route correction
- Century Mill on hold until spring

- Tom Denney hike route
 - This is not a permanently marked route on the trail but highlighting it in the guidebook is fine as long as this is clear. It is rather flagged temporarily during camp so guidebook will not show this as permanent route.
 - Gordon mentions that last time someone removed nice tags that were set up for the camp which was frustrating so it would be good to potentially highlight for guide.
 - Other alternatives were to advertise in paper, public outreach, place markings or temporary signs at trail heads and inform property owners.
- Bolton Hills - summits of Bolton
- Gordon discussed next print of guide with Eli. They have agreed with 6th printing with two extra pages for Taggart. Gordon has made some smaller correction in that guidebook as well in addition to Taggart.
- Next edition does not have target date. We might wait till this list is completed or we might pick a date and include anything that is done by then.

Walks and events

Summit series for march will be Peach hill road through Fyfeshire on March 31 at 4:30 p.m. and will be lead by Drew and Gordon. Rebecca has resources and write up that she can send to provide talking points during the hike.

Trust meeting report

- Summit series is good to go. Grey hats have been ordered for anyone who completes the series.
- Ballville Trail options were discussed.
- Backyard Bolton - Trust will provide support for this event. Few members will help. They will do a raffle at Backyard Bolton to support scholarship money. Season pass to "Garden in the woods" were donated by Bonny Potter which will be raffled.
- Drew is officially a director and on "Board of Directors".
- Gordon attended meeting to money that might be available to the trust and to discuss potential routes across International over North Brook. Dan, Liz, Bill Schultz and Gordon re-examined routes. Gordon and Drew identified about seven places to go across the brook. This route can be potentially connected to Fyfeshire and be about 5 miles. This route will be alternative to walk on the road
 - Option 1 is not selected which was to follow existing path and go through Sawyer Road without adding a bridge.
 - Option 2 was selected. This is to use triax type material on existing culvert. Gordon and Drew will write up a proposal to present to The International and Justin Schultz and then present to ConCom once its approved by The International. Rebecca will help with proposal.
 - <https://boltontrails.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/North-Brook-crossings-proposals-3.pdf>
- There was a barrier across the trail when Gordon went which was not placed by the International as it was checked. It could be from Justin Schultz. Justin does not own the land. There was a second barrier placed a week ago. Rebecca said that the relationship between property manager, Schultz Farm and property owner, The International needs to be better understood so we know how to interact with them.
- Trust meeting discussed about starting photographer of the month competition. There is no solid plans yet but incentive could be get your photo on next trails guide.

Volunteer projects

- Boy Scouts: Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, Wilder markings, Sullivan Memorial repair, Peach Hill bridge repair, The Oaks trash removal are some of the projects that are on the list that Rebecca maintains.

- Wilder project and Peach Hill bridge repair are not approved yet but others are approved.
- Eagle Scout Project to be done near Taggart Entrance (Bridge) is approved but will be done during when counselors are there. They may be doing outreach.
- No other updates on any of the projects.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

- Bowers
 - A map should be prepared to keep track of poison ivy plants so it can be managed by attacking the areas that needs to be addressed first. Larry will work on the map. Treatments need to be approved before they can be applied.
- Wilder
 - Rebecca is waiting for response from The Trustees of Reservation for the trail reroute and the access along common driveway so weed whacking can be done.
 - Wilder driveway is lower priority. Weed whacking or mowing is needed from 117 to new sub division during spring.
- Vinger-Vannable
 - It needs to be weed whacked during spring. Scouts usually do this. If Scouts are not participating then we may need to organize a work party.
- Ballville Trails/The Oaks: Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire
 - Gordon, Drew and Larry has done some work for The Oaks Loop Trail. It is very close to have a good set of trails. Arrows and little bit clearing is needed. There will be one loop and one going through lower level, one goes through the rocks.
 - Rebecca says that out and back spur to the rocks is ok but going through is not a good idea. Rebecca would like to visit the route that Drew has mapped out around the rocks. A trail where when you walk through the soil and material is very soft and unstable, it is not a good option for a trail. Material becomes compact and moves away from rocks so footing will become uneven and won't remain as a nice trail. Drew asked if he can fortify area but Rebecca mentioned that it is considered disturbance even when we move dirt from one area to another. It needs to be reviewed.
 - Wood chips were approved for Vaughn Hill and other trails that are not resource areas. You can ask about long tailings to ConCom. Wood chips were clean and not from ALB area and needed documentation.
- Vaughn Hills Trail Improvements: Woodside Drive trail (segment M-N-P) and reroute near steep section (segment I-J)
 - Water bars are approved. Re-route still needs to be brought up to ConCom. Rebecca asked if members can visit and double check then we can the map it before we bring to ConCom. There will not be significant problem to get approved.

Other Businesses

- Bolton Summits / Hills of Bolton
 - BoltonTrails.org website will show a pop-up on Home page to advertise summit series for a month.
 - Gordon wants to amalgamate with All Trails Club tab by calling challenges like Summits and photographer of month, etc.
 - Drew submitted website to the paper and asked to write up an article about that.
- Spring Backyard Bolton is on May 13
 - We will have a table with raffles sponsored by the Trust. We will set up similar to last time. New trail map of Taggart with Sand Road connection can be handed out.
 - Guidebook will require new printing to be able to sell guidebook.
- Century Mills Update - on hold until spring.
- Derby Field area Trails - Rebecca and Drew will bring it in front of ConCom on 21st to talk about proposed trail. Trail is bisecting two vernal pools and bisecting vernal pools area so it

needs preliminary insight from ConCom before request would go before Select board (due to landowner) and concom (due to resource areas & require RDA permit)

- Taggart - Maps have been updated after permission from private property owners.

Chainsaw training

- Gordon reminded that we should have a training since last one was a few years ago. No one has volunteered. Someone is needed to lead this training.
- Electric chainsaw is not up to par with PPE but if trust want to include it, they can add it to the training. Electric motor is also not safe yet.

Area Reviews

- <https://www.trailcare.com/map>
- Tree down at the top of Rattlesnake if someone wants to carry chainsaw there.
- Sullivan Memorial and some of the existing ones are still there that will stay for a while.
- Sand Road in Lancaster will be taken care by Lancaster. Rebecca has asked their DPW if they are willing to allow us to maintain that trail.