
Minutes of the April 01, 2024 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Andrew Schaubhut, Steve Rothman, Keith Silver, Larry Kunz, Abbie Maguire

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

Meeting maps: <https://www.boltontrails.org/Latest-Meeting-Map>

"lead steward" for each property

Rebecca mentioned in her email that it would be wonderful if we could encourage a "lead steward" for each property. This would allow her to work with them and review the management plan for that property and potentially identify some additional initiatives that might be of interest on various properties. This would also help plan for invasive management at each property.

We discussed this during the meeting. Larry defaults to Bowers as that is his favorite place to visit. Drew said that he is in favor but we might not have enough people to cover all the properties.

Initially we took top 3 properties that needed the most attention. For example Vaughn Hills where all the bridges are being installed.

Steve also mentioned that everyone does not have expertise in areas like building bridges, use chainsaw, identifying and dealing with invasive plants, etc.

Map updates

Maps at Zink-Northwoods. Trailhead maps updated and installed, online maps updated. Trail re-route needs to be checked for possible encroachment on to National Grid land. Signage is being handled by the landowner. The trail has been re-routed. Rebecca, who would know the property line will need to review and approve the route. This is about the re-route at the end of Laurel Road to existing intersection.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Bob

Probably nothing to report here given the snow and rain.

Walks and events

Abbie is leading Earth Day walk. Note that this is on the same day as Ray Pfau's Memorial event. The event is on Saturday, April 20. Abbie is offering the walk on April 21. She will finalize the time and share with Rebecca and respond to the email.

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca.

Vaughn Bridge installation - Keith, Larry, Drew and Gordon.

Rebecca was going to order all the material for all 7 bridges and will be delivered based on the dates when the bridges will be installed. They will be delivered to the site by a landscape company from Clinton at the site.

Two small bridges are easier to do with wood. Rest of the bridges will be FRP as per the proposal.

Keith asked if FRP are going to be assembled, pre-cut or pre-drilled. Larry did not have the answer. He also asked if she made design plans. Rebecca went through technical people and they have made adjustments based on the design. Steve asked if we would get the input from people that made adjustments so we know the design and adjustments.

Keith mentioned that for the bridge that needed footing, they didn't have much footing. It was resting on ground. They made of for it by extra rock.

Larry will ask about footing, status of the bridge when it arrives at site. pre-assembled, pre-cut and pre-drilled but not assembled,

Are the wood bridges going to be pre-cut or we would need to cut it at the site?

Steve said that we should have member of bridge building team meet with the landscaping contact that is helping with the design.

If FRP bridges are designed based on structural requirements, we need the design.

Are we planning to order to get paid in advance from the Grant since we might not be able to find the dates for all the bridges. It took a while to build the first bridge.

Keith has given dates to Rebecca. He has time over the summer. Drew gave her mid-June time.

Larry mentioned that we need to assign a team for a date and get the delivery date for that location. We meet with supplier Roget the details about the bridge.

Larry and Keith will come up with plan on how to get the process in place.

Drew brought four wheel barrows full of pea stone at the bridge. There were rocks piled up. More rocks are needed to complete but no one had capacity to bring the rocks.

Rebecca is looking into hiring electrical cart to bring the pea stone over.

Do we lay the hardwood cloth and then put pea stone? Ramps on either end with big rocks than fill in between with pea stone.

Derby Field, Horse Ring and Sawyer School to Berlin Rd Connector - Drew

We met with owners of 580 Main Street. They are receptive of allowing access on their land and building bridge to get over the stream to get there. They will confirm with property owner and get back with us.

Vinger-Venable Route clearance - Gordon;

Gordon talked to ConCom and showed a presentation over using very poor software. We are clear to build a bridge over the new stream (maybe a 16ft length; details TBD) and clear the existing path. Rebecca was actioned to look into the wetlands issues before we change the route to get away from the houses and lawns. Materials must come from current stock that was bought from Fyfeshire bridge. It will be replenished when needed.

Trust meeting report - Drew

- Most of the trail will be kept. Only about 100 ft will be lost to avoid epic leach field. They are looking to donate the land to town and keep the trail there.

- Lover's Leap Trail - Drew talked with Rich Pelletier. He has no issues with the trail going next to his property. He thought that other neighbors might have concern with it so that is the next step.
- Annual meeting is in May 5 at 1 p.m. one of the local churches. Some hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Wilder Trail

- Common driveway
 - This seems to be clear at present. Should we put a trailhead map at the Wilder Road end as was originally envisaged (needs a post)
- Trustees land
 - Gordon, Larry and Betsy checked this out now that Davis has agreed to allow the path to cross their land. Rebecca has also looked at the options. Tags should be moved to appropriate places. Still need assurances that we either do not need to cross private land or the land owners still agree that it's OK.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

- Bowers
 - Invasive plant removal Sessions - Larry mentioned that he would like to try the brush hog. He is planning to start a session.
 - Abbie and Drew did some work at the area where trail goes east of the upper pond. Update about the culvert - Gordon discussed with DPW about how to clear it. DPW was not interested to fix it. Larry thinks they will want to build a berm so water does not overflow. Larry has a snake that he might try to see if that does the trick and opens the culvert. Currently the whole field is impassable due to this. Rebecca needs to be aware of this. Rebecca might know what to do if DPW needs funding. Larry will let Drew know as this might impact the nature camp.
 - They have applied through GCA about preserving the earthen dams at Bowers Springs. They are valuable resource due to Eco system around it. State has recognized it as critical resource and agreed to protect it.
 - Plan is to get rid of woody vegetation in the area. Trees will be removed as part of this. They will also bring in surface material and seed perimeter with local native plants and allow people to hike and ride bikes in the middle.
- Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
- Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew

Wildflower Walk – Hemali

- There hasn't been much progress. Hemali has not heard from Elizabeth. She is still waiting to hear from her. Also have not heard from Native Plant Trust even though the front desk was very receptive and helpful but person who deals with media has left so I haven't heard back from anyone who can officially approve.
- I will pick up signs from Bob once he is not busy.

Approved projects

- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road.

- Gordon and Drew discussed using a route across Nicewicz land, but Ken Nicewicz will not agree to it. The only available route is as tagged now directly up the hill - it's rather steep and zig-zags might be hard to do.
- Drew thinks that if we only stay on town land, it will be trail that no one uses.

Bridge repair at Rattlesnake (also noted on [trailcare.com](https://www.trailcare.com))

- This is to get to the Skinner land where there is a collapsed bridge. Concom is ok with this. It is just having time and resources to do it.

Backyard Bolton

- Backyard Bolton is on May 11. Drew will be there if someone else wants to join.
- Larry can't help. Keith and Hemali will check if they can help.
- It might be a good opportunity to ask people to sign up for bridge repair if we have dates finalized. It would be nice to show what we are doing as a presentation.

Chainsaw training

- It will be potentially May 25, Memorial Day weekend.
- Bob has said that May was ok for him.

Area Review

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

- Rattlesnake - It seems like it is pretty deep in there.
- Two pines at Bowers Springs that were not passable. Larry will check it out. Keith will be able to help.

Deferred Business

- Trail color coding
- Eagle Scout project near TDNC area
- Volunteer projects suggestions.
- Boy Scouts: Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, repair, Peach Hill bridge repair (needs ConCom approval), Ballville trash removal, Wilder Map Sign, Rattlesnake Bog bridge...
- Century Mill Update
- Brush Hog or refurb/sickle bar purchase and storage
- Guidebook 2024/2025 Potential target updates:
- Ballville/International Trails
- Derby Field/Horse Ring
- Extended Powder House, include true summit and "Church to pipeline cutoff?"
- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road.
- Vinger-Venable route correction.
- Century Mill
- Tom Denney hike rout