
Minutes of the March 04, 2024 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Bob Roemer, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Steve Rothman, Larry Klien

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

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

Map updates; Base, reroute at Vaughn - Gordon

- Frames are ready to be installed. Online maps are updated. Updating trailhead maps is the outstanding work.
- Gordon will install the frames.
- Gordon has written a blog about how to load and use .Kml file for smart phones.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Bob

- Bob has no new update except that the scouts will go and do the work when the weather is good.

Walks and events

- Abbie has offered to lead a hike on April 21 at Ballville. She will communicate with Rebecca.

Leaders and routes needed. Abbie and Ballville for Earth Day?

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Keith, Larry, Drew, Gordon

- Notes from Rebecca
 - Please provide suggested "work party" dates so that I may coordinate material delivery and placement at sites, etc. Otherwise I will continue with scheduling separately. I have asked for your (volunteer leaders) available with the intent of giving the opportunity to lead the work day/site.
 - I have not received any availability and need the availability prior to delivering materials to ensure 1) they are not sitting at the site for too long 2) ensuring that the material gets to the site location prior to the date(s). The dates I can then schedule per crossing.
- Gordon said that there was a plan to meet with Rebecca but she said that everything is well-organized. She will schedule and order material. She will make sure that material is delivered. Volunteers will be tasked to assemble it in place.
- Drew questioned about the material being organized so Rebecca said that she will put together a table or list of supplies. Since Keith who would like to lead next one is out of town so discussion is on hold.
- It was discussed that someone should send couple of dates to Rebecca, If Keith wants to do the next bridge, he should organize the dates.

- Larry mentioned that he will take a list of bridges and see if he can send couple of dates and a bridge that he would like to do this.
- Hemali suggested to set up work party and send email to volunteers once dates are confirmed.

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

- Note from Rebecca - As a reminder section along/through Derby Field will be constructed as part of MVP project - Drew is aware of the location I am referring to.

Vinger-Venable Route clearance - Gordon

- Nothing to report from Gordon.
- Rebecca asked if this is a new trail or existing trail? If a new trail/re-establishing trail over concom land, needs authorization by concom.
- Trail is overgrown with Poison Ivy and shrubs. It would be useful to have a working brush hog. Some areas may also need reciprocated saw as well.
- Since existing brush hog is working, we can use that here.

Trust meeting. Anything to report? Drew

- nothing to report

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

Bowers

- Invasives Sessions

Wilder Trail route across the meadow over Trustees Land - Larry, Gordon

- Larry has discussed with son-in-law and his wife about getting permission to pass the trail from their private land.
- Next steps are to mark the trail and walk with them to get final approval and put it in writing.
- Note from Rebecca - Larry has reviewed the location and discussed it with the property owner (THANK YOU). I will be reviewing early next week and putting flagging in areas that will avoid crossing the substantial wetland. To my understanding Larry might then invite the property owner again to review the proposed area prior to cutting the trail.

Path next to Common driveway

- Common drive way is not public access. The side of common driveways is public access but is overgrown. Map does not show that it is the route.
- Path needs to be cleared and map needs to be clear.
- There might be old fence that we might have to cross.

Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew

- Drew is filing Notice of Intent with Conservation Commission for trail extension through Escalante land.

Wildflower Walk – Hemali

- Hemali is planning to talk with Elizabeth and finalize plan before creating QR code.
- Elizabeth gave feedback that provide information that general public can understand instead of botany related information about a plant.
- For example color of flower, time of bloom, etc., instead of the details that provide botanical details.
- We might want to create QR codes for one generalized area.
- Hemali has updated web pages that are still kept private since we need approval to use GoBotany links.
- Hemali also sent the pages to Rebecca for her feedback.
- Bob mentioned to reach out to someone higher at Native Plat Trust and tell them that we will also provide complement to them. Also ask them if the links are long term and usable.
- Betsy says that you can provide general referral instead of specific site since if the site moves then the links don't break.
- Bob has boxes of labels. Hemali would take a look at them so we could re-use them.
- Elizabeth is willing to walk in the first part of the trail and I can lead hike further that way she can provide more details about the area during the hike.

Volunteer Newsletter

- Good open and click-through rate. Very few bounced. Overall, newsletter is well-received.
- Rebecca says that wonderful work on the newsletter!

Chainsaw training provisionally set for May - Bob

- Steve Snider has agreed do the training in May is ok for 8-10 people.
- Bob is volunteering to hold the training in his barn.

Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road. Drew, Gordon

- Rebecca has mentioned that she would be happy to review any questions about this.
- Gordon has discussed with Ken Nicewicz to see if we could cross his land if it is a different spot. His answer is no and as discussed before they have closed the unofficial trail.
- The route on conservation land can allow us to get to sawyer Road but it is very steep slope. Larry asked if putting stairs might be helpful to deal with steep path. Gordon mentioned that it should work. Betsy and Gordon mentioned that zigzag might be a good option on the slope.

Bridge repair at Rattlesnake (also noted on trailcare.com)

- It was discussed during past meeting that material will be reviewed after Fyfreshire bridge is done.

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

- Vaughn Hills
 - A tree down that seems easy to clear but needs chain saw.
 - Another tree in Harvard that might be a widow maker.
- Bower Springs
 - Another tree is reported in Harvard.
- Rattlesnake
 - Two or three trees down. One of them is at Bob Horton Trail. Bob said that he walked it today and did not notice any tree.

Trail color coding

- Notes from Rebecca - (tabled until FY25) Other priorities being addressed at this time but will be getting related signage from Voss. We received a quote and will move forward when the other priorities are addressed and funds become available.

Eagle Scout project near TDNC area

- Eagle Scout has not confirmed their project at this time nor have they submitted timelines, etc.
- At this time I presume this project may no longer be happening. Still, I will reach out to the scout again to inquire this week.

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...

General Deferred business

- Brush Hog purchase and storage - Larry.
 - Existing brush hog is in operational condition.
 - Notes from Rebecca - This is an item directly related to the Conservation Department and associated budget. This is not specific to volunteer purchase of equipment.

Please note, there is no room nor funds for additional storage on town properties. Equipment will be housed within the container behind town hall.

If you have questions on this agenda item please make an appointment during office hours and I will be happy to address questions.

- Century Mills Update

- 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 route

Any other Business

Thank you all for your continued efforts, time, and energy maintaining our trail systems!

Warmer weather is coming and with that, I am sure more of a drive to spend time outdoors.

A wonderful opportunity to encourage others to explore our open spaces!