
Minutes of the May 13, 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>

Map updates

- Gordon printed Ballville supplement to the trail guide which were available at Backyard Bolton.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Bob

- Nothing to report here and it is still soaking due to rain.

Walks and events

- Abbie was a very able leader of the Earth Day walk. There were 7 people. Everyone enjoyed the hike. It is a good new trail.
- Drew asked if she heard from any neighbors during the hike. Rebecca received emails from few of the neighbors at Ballville. They were not aware that there was an easement in place. Rebecca mentioned to contact the Trust as the easement is from the Trust. One neighbor mentioned that they will put up a fence.
- Abbie said that she did not run into anyone. The area where she saw the neighbor was where there were a lot of leaves on trail.
- Suggestions for the next hike - Abbie can lead a hike early June and be part of Bolton Outdoor Challenge. Abbie will inform once she has date and place finalized.

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca.

- Vaughn Bridge installation - Keith, Larry, Drew, Gordon is complete. Vaughn Bridge more or less finished
- Bridge #2 we plan work to start on week of May 13; We will need materials. Keith said that he hasn't heard from Rebecca. Drew said that the material will be delivered on 15th. Gordon said that Rebecca has placed an order for material to be delivered by 15th. It would be delivered on site otherwise it will be at back of Town Hall.
- It was discussed to contact Rebecca to confirm the date and the bridge and also to get the design.
- Keith mentioned that Rebecca said that this will be made out of wood and is high enough that it will need a railing. They hope that landscaping company will help haul all the material. Keith is available this week to work.

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

- 580 Main Street has a meeting about the status the construction. She will bring up this up to get confirmation about using the trail and publish the map.
- Parks and Rec is going to redo soccer field at Florence Sawyer School as they have a Grant to do this work. They will make a defined trail around soccer field as part of that work.

Trust meeting - Drew

- Annual meeting was last week. Kathy Romeo did a presentation about health benefits of being outside followed by a short walk. Bob and Steve attended. There was no real business meeting this month.

Wilder

- Common driveway
- Trustees land
- No updates.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

- Bowers
 - No updates for Invasive Sessions
 - Rebecca sent an update that the work for the Northern section is taking place. Please be aware of this when you visit,
 - Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
 - Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew
 - Drew met with Rebecca to do the site visit today. We are proposing to put a bridge across the stream. Drew has to submit a DPW report for the delineation which is quite comprehensive. There wasn't one done for Escalante group and this did not have complete report so Drew has to go through the firm that they use. This is adding new unexpected cost for the project.
 - Drew has sent 46 certified mailings. There was a public meeting which was not attended by anyone from public. ConCom seems to be support of the idea. At site visit, Rebecca was mostly supportive of the idea. She suggested to try to keep more upland but it would require more work and steel beams which might do more damage than a shorter bridge. Drew thinks that this will get approved.

Wildflower Walk – Hemali

- Hemali will collect the signs and get started on the signs. We are not ready to do a walk right now but put up the signs this year. Elizabeth had some health issue so she could not meet but we are still planning to meet.
- Do a wildflower walk next year? We are seeing more flowers during mid-May. Bob mentioned that he has purchased a personal PA system that Rebecca has that should be helpful.

Approved projects

- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road - on hold until Drew contacts the home owners.
- Bridge repair at Rattlesnake (also noted on Trailcare.com) - This bridge is going to Sawyer Grist mill. No update yet but they will make it with 3 stringers to standard 3 feet width.
- Bog bridge at Rattlesnake - Status of material is not very clear. Material might not be purchased. The wood material is heavy so there is also an issue of how to bring it to the site. This might be done over the sequence of weekends based on availability of people. Most of the work will be done by dads of cub scouts.
- Vinger-Venable Route clearance - Gordon

- Rebecca said that there is enough material in the container for new bridge. It has been approved. Drew asked if there is any information about the design. It is not very clear if this was the bridge or the route clearing.

Backyard Bolton

- Abbie and Gordon were there in the morning. Drew helped set up and was in and out during the day.
- Steve and Hemali were there in the afternoon. We have about 6 booklets in the afternoon for outdoor challenge. We have inserts for few folks. A lot of people showed interest in outdoor challenge. A few people came from other towns but were interested in our trails and what were we doing.
- One person brought up that at Vaughn Hill water is overflowing at the dam area and the fish getting sucked in. We mentioned to talk with Rebecca.

Chainsaw training

- It will be on Memorial Day weekend on 5/25 at Bob's place. About 6-8 people are interested. Bob said that that is about the number they had last time.

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

- Vinger-Venable
- Philbin-Salmon Trail - That has been cleared already by someone.
- Fyfeshire has a small one that might not be there anymore. We need confirmation.
- Vaughn Hills - broken structure - That might be in Harvard. Drew reported that someone removed the brushing to block the old route on reroute. Abbie put it back but someone removed it again. Drew suggest that we should put a large tree to block or put a sign to keep out of re-vegetation area.
- Someone placed trail issue between Vaughn Hill and Bowers where it is private property. We did talked with a family that mentioned that they walked between these two properties and it needed maintenance. We told them there is no real trail there.
- Zink Northwoods has a big tree that fell. People are going around it.
- Drew reported one at Rattlesnakes. There were a few reports at Rattlesnakes.
- Annie Moore looks all set.
- Keyes Farm has one that seems across the trail.
- Powder House has a couple. One of them is big one. One is reported on private land.

Deferred

- Trail color coding

- Eagle Scout project near TDNC area
- Volunteer projects suggestions
- Boy Scouts: Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, repair, 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 route

Any other Business

- No updates.