
Minutes of the November 06, 2023 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Bob Roemer, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Andrew Schaubhut, Steve Rothman, Keith Silver, Abbie Maguire

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

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

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Bob

- Weather is not appropriate although scout is interested.

Walks and events - Gordon and Drew

- It was successful. Eight people attended including Bob Roemer. Gordon and Betsy led the walk to the top of Barrett's Hill at Danforth. Gordon researched about Barrett's Hill and got some help as well.
- Next hike is being led by Drew on Black Friday at Annie Moore starting at Bolton Woods Way.

Vaughn Bridge installation - Keith, Larry, Drew, Gordon

- Additional material is needed. Keith sent the list to Town Hall but has not heard from anyone.
- Gordon suggested to call Town Hall and talk with Jenny to check if she has already ordered, She is very helpful.

Sawyer School to Berlin Rd Connector - Drew

- This work is done. Drew was discussing the map which lead Gordon and Drew to look into Railroad Bed. On map it shows that the Railroad bed is on private land. It is mapped with yellow triangles.
- Drew and Gordon will bring this up at Town meeting. No one has approached the land owner yet. Dan might have connected with them already so Drew will check with them.
- This also inspires Drew to complete Lover's leap connection first.

Vinger-Venable Route clearance - Gordon

- There is no new report yet. Topic is kept to plan on moving the path to avoid private yard and shared driveway. A part of path also goes through overgrown section that goes through a patch of poison ivy.

- Brush hog will be very useful.

Trust meeting. Anything to report? Drew

- Trust email list is clarified. Drew sent Hemali the list name.
- Town auction for properties is on pause. Trust is interested in Lover's leap property.
- Update on McGourty trail is that there has been no official easement with Taylor family that owned 22 West Berlin Road which now is owned by a new owner. There has been conversation with surrounding land owners. If new owner posts no trespassing sign then there might be a reroute possible to avoid private land.
- Trust will talk with Pelletier about the trail from Berlin Road, up along the boundary of winery that would connect with Lover's leap.
- Trust agrees to repair the bridge at Rattlesnake that goes to Sawyer Grist Mill is wobbly. Drew is preparing to get approval from the ConCom. He will represent the Trust.
- The Oak trail loop and working with Weadock family.
- Connection from Oaks loop to Fyfeshire - Escalante group is ok with proposed trail loop that we have walked a few times. We will do a separate CR and not update existing CR. This should be smooth from legal side to have a new CR.
 - Gordon mentioned to check with Rebecca as she contacted the state about this so she has response from state.
 - Next step is to introduce project in ConCom meeting.
 - Poison Ivy covered bench that Larry has cleared was discussed.
- **Bench location - Liz and others.**
 - We agreed to take a look at the bench last month, Liz said give her 24 hours notice, but we didn't follow through!
 - Gordon, Larry and few folks are planning to visit Liz. Larry will call Liz to find a time to visit.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

- Bowers
 - Invasives Sessions
 - Larry and Jan have been clearing buckthorn on regular basis. They had kept piles which DPW has picked up.

- Gordon and Larry has looked up some options. Larry met with Don Lowe to discuss budget and logistics of ordering a brush hog. They found two category of brush hogs. Don mentioned that it is not their budget but can come from their budget as they had two items in general for outdoor equipment. They will meet with ConCom to see if they have a budget. Larry has not heard back from Don yet.
- They don't have finalize which one to purchase yet.
- Eagle Scout project near TDNC area
- Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
 - The Oaks Loop Trail - Drew, Gordon, Larry
 - Drew organized an afternoon work party with Abby, Winslow and Gordon. They made trail very obvious. Now it goes behind Weadock property and is very clear. They tried to stay close to stone wall but there are sections that are close to the loan.
 - Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew, Gordon
 - Drew will be presenting this to ConCom. Gordon can support by going to go to ConCom meeting.
- **Wildflower Walk - Hemali**
 - Hemali shared some examples of the work she is doing. These are some of the suggestions that would be nice to have.
 - Map is clickable based on the area that is clicked. The detailed plant information for that section can live on a single page which allows us to make shorter pages.
 - Just open the section that has companion plants in that section. For example - wetland area shows all plants in that area.
 - Gordon and Betsy also has a PDF about identifying trees by leaves called "Leaves of Trees" that can be shared for tree ID.
 - Hemali is missing some of the flower pictures for the plants that grow very early.
 - We will be able to do a trail walk in the future once this project is done.
 - Make sure to reduce resolution of the picture so they are easy to download.
- **Approved projects, not started**
 - Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road.
 - Gordon shared the map. He has spent time to mark the trail on the map. He has marked the trail with red tape where it goes up the hill and out to

Sawyer Road. It is a bit steep but trail stays on the property. Hemali would like to help if the time permits.

- Town believes that they own the land that goes up to the road. Rebecca has found a map that shows that it is ok to go out to road from there.
- Vaughn Hills Trail Improvements: Woodside Drive trail (segment M-N-P) and reroute near steep section (segment I-J)
 - No new updates.
- **Bolton Summits - Drew**
 - This will run until all hats are warded.
- **Horse Ring/Derby Field area Trails - Drew et al**
 - Drew attended last planning board meeting. There is a property that was mentioned where there is an unofficial trail that goes through this trail. The private land owner is planning to split the trail into two which will impact the trail that is being used currently. Drew will bring this up to the Trust.
- **Area Review**
 - <https://www.trailcare.com/map>
 - Houghton Farm parking area has a huge tree that is blocking two-third of the parking lot. Drew will take care of that.
 - Vaughn Hill - There is a photo of a huge tree by Bare Hill Road at this property but no one has gotten to it. Keith might be able to take care of it.
 - Gordon added an issue that is gone now. He believes that someone must have taken care of it.
 - We marked a heavily overgrown report as during the late fall it would be manageable.
 - Gordon marked an area where there was water puddle which might become permanent wet area. We will wait and observe it this year.
 - Gordon and Betsy found a tree at Annie Moore and they took care of it.
 - Wolf tree at Rattlesnake - Bob says that once oak tree loses enough leaves, we can plan a time to work on wolf tree. It is going to require patience and time.
- **Items deferred because of Rebecca's absence**
 - Trail color coding
 - Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca
 - Wilder; Anything new on the trail route
 - Common driveway
 - Trustees land
 - Volunteer project suggestions.

- Boy Scouts: Vaughn submerged bog bridge removal, repair, Peach Hill bridge repair (needs ConCom approval), The Oaks trash removal, Wilder Map Sign, Rattlesnake Bog bridge...
- **General Deferred business**
- Century Mills Update
- 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