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## Minutes of the October 02, 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>

- **Summer Backyard Bolton. Aug 26, Sept 16**

- Larry and Drew will host the October 14 as September 16 event was moved.

- **Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca**

- No new updates after conversation with Don Lowe.
- Gordon said that we might build from what we have and learn from first experience. Keith agreed with this as well.
- We discussed that we should build smaller one and then we need to provide a detailed plan of material needed to Town and ConCom so they can order proper material.

- **Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Rebecca**

- Bob discussed with the scout. Scout is doing this as a service project and will get to this once the condition is better to place the footings. They have checked the material in the container.
- They mentioned that connectors still need to be ordered.
- First bridge will use pressure treated material. Trigger process for second one
- Gordon mentioned that we should ask Cynthia's friend who helped with design for help. Keith will email to get discussion started with Jenny who is working while Rebecca is on leave.

- **Trail Marking Improvement - Rebecca**

- **Walks and events**

- Gordon/Betsy will lead the walk in October 27 as there was a change in date. Police were informed last time which will be needed this time, too. Gordon will call Town Hall to get this arranged.

- **Trust meeting - Drew**

- North Brook Trail - Oak Loop to Fyfeshire - Trust has received verbal ok but the Trust wants to document it so they are working with a lawyer. Gordon asked if we need town's approval on that. The answer is that everyone's approval is needed. No legal action can be done until legal approval.

- Summit series - This will run until the Trust runs out of hats. They are half way through inventory. There is no plan to order new hats.
- Town Auction - One of the properties in the upcoming town auction is next to Indian Maiden Leap that the Trust is interested in. Trust is trying to get documentation around the property.
- Bench location - We discussed about volunteering to go to Liz's house and pick up the bench. Then go to the trail location and assemble it there. It is heavy but can be brought up in pieces up Rattlesnake Hill.
- It was discussed that a pre-meeting to come up with a plan. Gordon will set up the pre-meeting. Larry and Drew are going to help.
- Betsy brought up discussion of theft and should this be anchored.
- **Volunteer projects and 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...
- **Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities**
  - Bowers
    - Invasive removal Sessions
      - Jan and Larry have done three work parties to remove bittersweet and buckthorn. A quarter or less of what needs to be done is completed. Areas that are cleared look good. The pond is now visible from there. Bittersweet removal project has to become more ongoing if we want to contain the invasive nature of this plant.
    - Eagle Scout project near TDNC area — no update.
  - Wilder; Anything new on the trail route
    - Common driveway
    - Trustees land
  - Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
    - The Oaks Loop Trail - Drew, Gordon, Larry
      - Final markers are still needed and signs for direction are needed but they need to be approved before installation.
    - Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew, Gordon
      - Map page is work in progress but is not ready yet.
      - Drew contacted with home owner and walked with him. A fair number of trees have to be removed. Drew has flagged trees. Next steps is to confirm with land owners before and then remove them.
      - There is no official parking space for this trail. This needs further discussion. One thought was to discuss with Lauren who is helping Town in Rebecca's absence. Rebecca mentioned to discuss with DPW. Drew said that we should make a proposal and run it through their system.
- **Volunteer newsletter - Hemali**
  - Hemali shared number of opens — 63%. Betsy and Drew said that there is another list that should be used to send the email. Drew will share the list name.

- **Wildflower Walk - Hemali**

- This project is in progress. No update at this time.

- **Other Business - approved projects**

- Vaughn Hills Trail Improvements: Woodside Drive trail (segment M-N-P) and reroute near steep section (segment I-J)
- Bolton Summits / Hills of Bolton
- No update on these approved projects. We need leadership to do guide us for these projects without Rebecca.

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

- Bob reported that an Eastern Pine that came down in microburst at Lime Kiln has impacted wolf Oak tree. Tree came down so fast that it impacted main section of oak tree which needs to be protected. Bob mentioned that be very careful on how to remove as the wolf tree is historic and has to be protected. Cutting into 10 foot planks and pulling it out of the way with a come along might be the safest way to do this.
- Zink-Northwoods - Liz added a report but that area is on private property which requires permission from land owner.
- Gould-White - Overgrowth report is still true as no one has worked on it.
- Danforth - broken board needs material ordered. It will need to be approved by ConCom and be part of ConCom budget.

- **Deferred business**

- Century Mills Update
- Horse Ring/Derby Field area Trails
  - Arrows are done. Need signs after they are approved then this can be added to website.
- Vinger-vannable path needs to be cleared as there is so much poison ivy along the trail. Wood chips might help after clearing the trail.
- Bench locations; suggestions
- Guidebook updates for 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
  - Bolton Hills