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## Minutes of the December 02, 2024 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

### *Attendees:*

*Andrew Schaubhut, Larry Kunz, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Chris DeMers, Keith Silver, Bob Roemer*

*Chairperson - Larry*

*Note taker - Hemali*

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

### **Trust Meeting Report - Drew**

- They discussed annual Black Friday Walk at North Brook Trail and New Year's Day at Gould-White with parking at Rocky Dundee area.
- Trust is running Capital campaign to raise \$20000 for conservation.

### **Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Bob;**

- Bob wants to give up on Boy Scouts as after a couple of emails, they are saying that scout is waiting for approval from Eagle Scout. Approval does not take this long.
- Volunteers will take on this project during spring as currently the focus is on the other Bridge Repair project.

### **BOC boxes:**

- Larry could not find some of the boxes. They either were moved or recycled by someone.
- Gordon and Betsy has retrieved the ones at Ballville Road, Powder House, Fyfeshire, wilder and few other places.
- Bob took care of the one at Split Rock.

### **Mass Trails Bridges State Grant update - Rebecca and the Bridge team.**

- Materials for FRP bridges - Bob Hatch, Rebecca.
- All the bridges are completed at The Vaughn Hill. Total 5 wooden bridges and four FRP bridge. Also, they moved the long wooden bridge to a new location.
- Annie Moore is the only one left to do. Majority of material is at the location. Keith, Gordon, Larry and Chris are helping. They will be there to replace existing bridge and one section of boardwalk.
- Rebecca would like to set up another volunteer day but there might not be much for volunteers to do. They might need help to get the rock and pea stone. Bob might be able to bring it with one trip but volunteers can help bring it down using buckets.
- Less than a month is left. Annie Moore bridge is only 100 feet but, there is only one bridge which is very short. Material and ground is freezing up quickly.

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

See Appendix A in <https://www.boltontrails.org/Latest-Meeting-Map>

- No update yet but waiting to hear from Rebecca who would hear from the owners at 580 Main Street.

## **Volunteer Newsletter - Hemali**

- A newsletter in early 2025 after Gordon writes up a blog post about the bridges after FRP bridges are completed and Annie Moore is completed.
- Volunteer list is long but we don't use it. Larry wants to provide a way for volunteers to be able unsubscribe if people are not interested.
- We don't send email newsletter just to our volunteers. Everyone wants to read newsletter.
- Hemali suggested to send an email to just volunteers and ask if they would like to be removed.
- We discussed about doing regular event like clean up, invasive clear up, etc and ask people to sign up.

## **Bowers**

Invasives Sessions, etc. Jan Johnson email

- Large amount of invasive plants have been taken care by Jim Anderson. They have also cleared areas around trees.
- Also, there has been a lot of clearing on the paths between and around the pond. Some of the bush cut to 2 feet height. Fence around beach and beach has been reinforced y material like dirt and sand. This restoration work might be done by the project that Rebecca was discussing. There is also a sign to stay out of beach and that restoration is in progress.
- We should ask Rebecca to put Brush Hog away for the winter. Rebecca knows where it's going to be stored.

## **Connect Ballville and North Brook Trails - Drew and Gordon.**

See Map 18 in <https://www.boltontrails.org/Latest-Meeting-Map>

- This project is completed.

## **Hike**

- 20 people joined Black Friday walk. Two of them were kids that lived on Ballville Road. Indian was the star attraction as they wanted to see the Indian.
- New Year's Day Hike is at Gould-White.

## **Wildflower walk document – Hemali**

- Hemali discussed how to change to word document that Bob has shared.
- Bob might have a way to be able to send a version that is easier to work with.
- Map and link to flower descriptions on the web once everything is all set.

- Gordon wants a map for the Guidebook but that might need help from Gordon.

### **Approved projects**

- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road Gordon and Drew. No change — focus on Bridge project
- Bridge repair at Rattlesnake (also noted on [Trailcare.com](https://www.trailcare.com)). No change — focus on Bridge project
- Vinger-Venable Route clearance project. - Gordon.
  - No change — focus on Bridge project.

### **Clear put and tidy the Container**

- Note on meeting agenda said to coordinate with Rebecca since The Town now has a new brush hog. Also a DR string brush mover (aka a small brush clearance tool).
- Rebecca mentioned that this item no longer needs to be addressed. We are storing the equipment at another location.
- Now they are storing the DR and Brush hog somewhere else. Larry says that the plan was to store at DPW which does not have space. Other option is old fire station as it does not need to be demolished. It could be Parks and Rec container at DPW which was fairly empty. We don't know where they are planning to store.

### **Sign Database**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP\\_zk](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP_zk)

- Gordon has updated it with new signs at NorthBrook Trail and Haynes Wheeler.

### **Area Review**

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

- Bowers - Big log has been cleared by Drew.
- Vaughn Hills looks good.
- Taggart looks good.
- Wilder
  - Big birch tree that fell also took off the railing on the bridge. The railing will need to be replaced. It will need material but we discussed that we might be able to put railing using 2 by 4s. Taking care of birch tree looks easy.
  - We discussed that we should walk the trail again now that the leaves have fallen. Rebecca mentioned to wait till spring.
- Drew could add the map to OpenStreetMap for Ballville Trail. You need GPX tracks to upload. He added his actual tracks.
- RattleSnake has two. Drew will let others know if he goes to clear them. One of them is a widow maker.
- Rainforest trail has a tree down that needs to be cleared.
- Keyes Farm - two chairs set up next to each other similar to Welch Pond that was reported by Gordon.

- Gould-White, Welch Pond and Fyfeshire, Annie Moore, Powder House and Delany look good.

### **Trails Guide.**

- Gordon has sent a version of Guide book. He would like feedback from others. Keith and Bob has gone through it. It would be good to get the maps reviewed after bridges are done.

### **Deferred**

#### **Trail color coding.**

- I believe Rebecca has obtained a Grant to help with this. It might not be deferred for much longer

#### **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...

- We might be able to leverage them for Annie Moore project.

#### **Century Mill Update**

- No updates. Lands are all sold at auction for about 700000 for 7 properties. About 2 were buildable.

### **Any other Business**