
Minutes of the June 03, 2024 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Andrew Schaubhut, Steve Rothman, Keith Silver, Larry Kunz, Abbie Maguire, Bob Roemer, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kenned

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

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

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - Rebecca.

- Keith mentioned that they had a wood-cutting party behind the town hall. They decided the wood was available for 3 bridges - 2 10 feet long and one 12 feet long. They cut enough treads to accommodate 3 bridges and laid it in three separate piles with treads on top of the stringers so they look like three bridges but were unassembled.
- Rebecca arranged to move the bridge material but now all three bridge materials are at Moen parking lot.
- Next bridge to build is the one that goes over the culvert at Moen so that makes sense but it was not clear why the other two were also moved there including all keystone, stringers and treads.
- Keith was wondering if the other two bridges are also in the same vicinity area.
- Larry said that he thought that the higher bridge wasn't going to be wood.
- Also there was material for twice the number of treads compared to stringers and Rebecca asked when are they going to cut rest of the treads but Keith said that he did not want to cut \$1000 material without clear information. They will wait to hear from Rebecca about the details.
- On the bright side, there is material for the next bridge so they can start building. First task is to remove the culvert and put something in its place which should not require as many people. Keith, Gordon, Larry and Chris will plan a day.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Bob

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

Walks and events

- Abbie will lead the next hike at Vaughn Hill on Saturday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m. Abbie thanked Rebecca, Betsy and Liz to get the word out.

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

- Drew talked with Rebecca. They are still waiting for the decision from the owners.
- Drew wanted to know when the construction for 580 Main Street will start so he can encourage them to move forward along with construction. Bob said to ask the Town Clark.

Trust meeting - Drew

- Annual meeting was last month. No new updates.

Wilder

- Common driveway
- Trustees Land
 - Next outreach was to contact Joel and to show the proposed path on his property. Larry has talked with Joel several times and he is ok with the trail going through his property. Rebecca wants a written agreement for the Town. Rebecca is also in touch with the Trustees. Betsy said that a lawyer needs to get involved on the easement agreement. The trail probably cannot be completed without permissions from the lan owners which was taken a while ago. Trail has to go through many spaghetti lots It is not clear if the owners have changed and the permissions needs to be re-approved.
 - Larry will set up a meeting with Rebecca is needed to review the documents.
- Bridge modification
 - Rebecca sent an email about the bridge that was built several years by the Trails committee crew which has been modified by someone.
 - It seems like they have widened the bridge. It is 6 feet wide now. They put landscape fabric down and pea-stone on it. They kept the barbs same. It seems like almost 2 new stringers are added and put longer treads on but treads are trex. Gordon said that he was not sure about trex if this was done for horses since trex is not good for horses. Rebecca will handle it.
 - Bob brought up the topic of waivers. If someone rides horses and horse gets injured, Town is liable for that so Town should look into waivers. In this case we have not designed to be able to handle horses and someone has widened it up and opened up a situation where Town should look into waivers.
 - Every rider that goes to any riding facility has to sign a document.
 - Agriculture facilities are covered but Bob does not think municipal facilities are not part of that coverage. This is the reason why Rebecca does not sign the Guidebook for chainsaw training.
 - Bob has asked if the Trust would sign it since this is the liability issue. If we are not authorized then tree warden and DPW has to clear the trails.
 - Bob says that DPW keeps saying that we should not add more trails but maintain existing trails.
 - We discussed that may be the Town should look into how to explain that riders enter knowing the risk. This should be brought up with Rebecca.
 - Keith will join Larry for the meeting with Rebecca.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

- Bowers
 - Invasive Sessions - No new sessions has been started yet. We wait for the work being done around dam area but clearing poison ivy can be started.
- Ballville Trails/The Oaks:
 - Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew

- There was a meeting at ConCom where trail is approved with a slight modification of adding a step for the bridge over the stream.
- Work can start. Drew will send work party emails.

Wildflower Walk – Hemali

- No updates yet.
- It is not good time to put signs in due to poison ivy.

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.
- Vinger-Venable Route clearance - Gordon
 - Section is getting flooded. ConCom has agreed to put a bridge over the section but no update yet. There is also a lot of poison ivy in the area. Not many people use that area. It also feels like its someone's backyard and stone wall has all the brambles, etc.

Backyard Bolton

- Next one is in September timeframe when they will do the prizes for Outdoor challenge.
- Not many guidebooks were sold in the last event.

Chainsaw training

- They had good turnout - 12 or 13 people.
- There is discussion about how to do practical training on how to take down a small tree or take down a limb, etc. The last one was about safety of the chainsaw. Gordon said that Mass RailTrail conference has chainsaw training in November timeframe. He will forward the reminder when registration begins. It would be great if the Trust can reimburse for the training. It is two-day on-site training.
- Bob and Drew were discussing a basic chainsaw training that you need to do during the trail maintenance.

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

- 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.

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