
Minutes of the November 05, 2024 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Andrew

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.
- Box needs to be cleaned out after Bolton outdoor challenge. We need to figure out how to coordinate this.
- Bob Johnson wants to retire from secretary position. They are looking for someone for note taking. If anyone wants to help out. He will stay as board member.
- Photo contest
 - It does not have many entries so if you posted then you might win.
 - There is not much publicity as there is not a good media to publicize. They posted on Facebook but it does not seem like best media.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Bob;

- It's been very dry. Gordon asked if Steve Schneider's son taken charge of this work.
- Bob responded that they haven't been getting traction from the Scout. Now his second son is interested.
- Rebecca and Bob has talked with him. They are hoping to get it going before concrete sets in container.

BOC boxes:

- Gordon asked if Is it time to retrieve the boxes.
- Gordon has placed 3. Larry has placed two. They will pick up theirs but would others go and pick up the boxes they have placed or would we have to go to all the places and pick up.
- Drew suggested to pick up ours and if we can get other boxes, it would be great. Drew will send an email to ask volunteers to help. Betsy asked if boxes need to be returned to Trust office or dispose them. The plan is to dispose them and keep stamps if you want.

Backyard Bolton Feedback

- Everyone helped and we had good public turnout. We sold 6-7 guide books and met with the state rep again.

- We distributed bags to the participants who brought their books for Bolton Outdoor challenge.
- One person signed up to be volunteer. Many people asked questions about trails and said that they are use our trails. One person has almost completed Summit challenge.

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

- Materials for FRP bridges - Bob Hatch, Rebecca.
 - Materials have been delivered to the contracted party. Currently working on a schedule with the contracted party.
 - There will be a preliminary meeting (date and time will be sent to the BTC steering committee for those interested/who can attend).
 - Keith and Gordon had meeting with Bob Hatch and Rebecca. On Wednesday Chris, and Gordon will meet to move the FRP beams and other material out to Old Bridge Way. There will be other party on Friday at 11. Keith will bring tractor to haul rocks. They will install Treads and other things. Gordon has list of tools for this work party that they will bring.
 - On Saturday there is a work party to install footings for bridges that are further up the trail. Bob Hatch is using same design as Keith, Gordon and Chris has used.
 - On November 23, volunteers will be needed to move material down at Annie Moore.
 - This site is flat at first but then straight down so it will be challenge to move material. One piece is pretty heavy.
 - Rock would be in 5 gallon buckets so they hope to do a fire line. Bob might be able to use his machine to do this work which requires fewer volunteers.
 - Most of work is to line up footers than the rest of the bridge can be completed in 2 hours. New bridge will be 20 feet. Old was 16 feet. They will use old bridge at another location.
 - Keith went to check how new bridge is looks. He shared a photo of bridge which shows damage by a mountain bike. It could be electric bike or mountain bike.
 - Bob says that placing chicken wire before putting the rocks can solve this problem. Keith was concerned that If chicken wire breaks, dog legs can get caught in it so they might just have to live with this.
 - Other option from Keith is to put a board lengthwise where the bikes can use board instead of gravel to reduce breaking the path designed for horses and hikers.

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

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

- Gordon is working on map and Drew is giving him feedback. Most of the map is ready to be posted.
- Drew is planning to use the map to negotiate with Pattersons to gain access from Bolton Bean side and to facilitate meeting with 580 Main Street. They have put up barriers so they are ready to build.

- Gordon asked Marie about who controls the gate where there is a sign about “trespassers” and explained the contradiction since the to get to trail you have to go through the gate. She asked to get photos. She will look into it.
- Map will need to be updated once there is agreement between Pattersons and 580 Main Street. Trail is in good condition.
- COA and the School might be other party to confirm. Once Drew says the map is all set it can go in trails guide.

Volunteer

Volunteer newsletter - Hemali

- Newsletter was sent. We had 53% open rate. Not many bounces.
- We need volunteers for November 23.
- volunteer contact form on website
 - Hemali has worked on a volunteer contact system on the website. She we see if we can get it operational.

Wilder.

- Common driveway path clearance
 - This was not discussed during meeting but maybe need to be schedule
- Connection across Trustees land and private land. - Larry (Trustees and Davies Farm)
 - Larry, Gordon and Betsy walked with Rebecca and they discovered a path that was cleared by someone using a mower. This path is in the wetland area. Rebecca said that they should have not cleared path without permissions and approval and that this path cannot be used. We need to be closer to the road and within 50 feet of the land. They could not find the flags that were marked by Rebecca in the past.
 - Note from Rebecca below:
 - Cleared section was carried out without prior permission and in violation of the wetlands protection act and local bylaw. The actual route will be adjacent this area to the field then the next section reviewed and track collected prior to any removal of vegetation.
 - Violations on Town land cause problems for volunteers who are actively doing the appropriate things. My hope is for whoever made the cut realizes this and does not continue for the sake of all of our wonderful volunteers like yourselves who put tireless hours in to maintain our trails!
 - Larry will check with Davis family if they know anything about this mowing.
 - Drew asked if the trail is usable. Rebecca says that this is not the right place to make the trail since it is going through wetland.
- Contact private landowners who own the strips of land to be crossed: Rebecca or the Trust.
 - Gordon mentioned that Rebecca will need to check if that agreement still holds after property is sold.

- Rebecca said that it is “Buyer Beware”. New owner need to know which easement is on their property and we don’t need to redo approval process. If that is true then we can get the final map, get it approved with Davis family and get started on the trail.
- Map of planned route needed - Postponed until winter when there is less vegetation to deal with.

Bowers

Invasives Sessions, etc. Jan Johnson email

- Rebecca got email from Jan. It is possible that Rebecca has addressed the email.
- Here is note from Rebecca.
 - This item has been addressed. No action from BTC is necessary.
 - October 30 at 1pm at bowers coincidentally there is a weed warrior training co-hosted by SVT! Please let me know if you plan on attending and I will add you to the registration.
 - None of us were able to go to Weed Warrior training. Rebecca said that she will arrange it at later date.
- Larry said that they are asked to not make any changes in the area where they are doing work around earthen ponds so they are on hold.

Connect Ballville and North Brook Trails - Drew and Gordon.

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

- Drew suggested a Black Friday get outside hike on North Brook Trail.
- Drew has asked Rebecca to help with getting parking permission at Ballville Road and help with the flyer for the Black Friday Walk.
- They might park at the restaurant since it is not running right now. There is not much space to park.

Wildflower walk document – Hemali

- Hemali showed the pages with updates requested by Rebecca that are work in progress.
- Gordon asked if you can do Wild Flower map on the maps that he uses for guide book. He can provide a base layer. You can add names of flowers and annotate whatever you like. That way we can put WildFlower map in the book.
- Bob mentioned that he has an original of the map in word file if Hemali wants to do minor changes.

Approved projects

- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road Gordon and Drew. No change as we focus on Bridge project.

- Bridge repair at Rattlesnake (also noted on Trailcare.com). No change — focus on Bridge project
 - Rebecca said that as Bob noted the dry conditions are beneficial for the bog bridge at Rattlesnake. This could be an opportunity if individuals are looking for projects while we await the work day schedule for the mass trails project.
 - Bob has marked the both end locations of where the abutment goes. He needs to check the container and noticed that we have 6 16 foot 2 by 12s. Last time he checked there were no 2 by 12s.
 - Since he has ordered them about 18 months ago, he is wondering what happened to them. Keith said that they have not used them for bridge building project. He will check the container.
 - Drew mentioned that we have approval for two bridges by ConCom. One near Sawyer Mill Road where a bridge has collapsed and the other one close to boulders. Bob is talking about the second bridge by boulders which is 48 feet long.
 - Drew said that Rebecca might be confused between the two so Bob will meet with her and check container.
- Vinger Venable Route clearance
- No change as we 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/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QlkdINJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP_zk

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

Area Review

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

- RattleSnake has two. Drew will let others know if he goes to clear them.
- Bowers - There is a huge tree where there is no cell service and another large enough so bike can't pass through.
- Vaughn Hills has one near Harris Lane that is passable by foot, bike, etc. They assume it is on conservation land.
- Taggart, Wilder, Welch Pond and Fyfeshire, Annie Moore and Delany look good.

- Drew had to hand saw some tree near NorthBrook Trail which was on Escalante Land. Gordon had logged them in as blocking trees. The trail probably need more trail markers. After leaves have fallen, trail is not very obvious.
- Danforth has a few small ones.
- Gordon and Drew discussed OpenStreet Map since TrailCare uses Open Street Map. Gordon has tried but he could not add/post as at the end it says you don't have permission.

Trails Guide.

- Trust does not want to run out of guides. If we need to produce then we should not wait for new guide just produce an intermediate one.
- Draft of guide book was sent out but not many responses. Keith has reviewed it and sent a response.
- He will produce about 40 more. Backyard Bolton sells about 10 so for two Backyard Bolton about 20 and 10 for Town Hall. We may sell more so planning for 40 so Town does not run out of them again.
- There was a real estate agent that used give out when she sells the house. We don't know
- Once we have trails like Derby Field are finalized, they can be included. Only 10 left in stock; 6 at Town Hall, 3 for new members, one spare in Trust office. Going ahead with a 2025 update to include North Brook and Ballville. Limited print of 40-50 copies

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