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## Minutes of the October 07, 2024 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

### *Attendees:*

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

*Chairperson - Andrew*

*Note taker - Hemali*

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

### **Trust meeting report - Drew**

- North Brook Trail is getting complete.
- Trails - We discussed about BackYard Bolton that is postponed to October. We are planning to promote Fall Photo Contest that will run from October to December. Details available on Trust website.

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

- Steve Snider, Rebecca and Bob has exchanged emails. His son would like to do this as Eagle Scouts project. He would need signature from his sponsor.
- Condition of concrete in container might not be viable. Rebecca and Steve were going to check that.
- Everything needed for the project is available. There might be some items missing for wood as Keith, Gordon and team took some 2x4 and 4x4 for Bridge project. Keith can take inventory if Bob shares the list of items that are needed.

### **BOC boxes**

- We discussed this last month. We weren't going to extend the contest beyond Backyard Bolton. We would give out gift bags if people bring books. If anyone cannot make it to Backyard Bolton, they can get them via emails.
- We should remove the pop up from website.
- Trust will organize event to remove the boxes after Backyard Bolton.

### **Backyard Bolton**

- Backyard Bolton is now on October 19.
- Drew can still help but will need help due to soccer game. He will be going in and out. Gordon and Betsy can help this time. Abbie will be able to help as well.

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

- Materials for FRP bridges
  - Rebecca has ordered materials for FRP bridges. She will update with delivery date when applicable.
  - A lot of coordination in a short period of time and more volunteers will be required.

- Bob Hatch is supplying FRP bridges and co-ordinate the building. Volunteers are needed to transport material to the bridges. Annie Moore for example is very steep to get material in.
- Removal of waste and excess materials - Pea stone will remain in place. Lumber can be returned to town hall, crossings can be reused, brought back to town hall, or materials in disrepair can be cut up on site and brought to the trail head.
- All non-FRP bridges are done. Lip is put on the first bridge.

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

- Drew has added rough map for Derby field here : Appendix A in <https://www.boltontrails.org/Latest-Meeting-Map>
- Rebecca reviewed it and responded that this is a great resource! The draft CME map will connect to Hudson's Danforth Falls. Once the MassTrails project is complete, I am happy to have a couple volunteers work on the CME route with me over the winter. As always we propose the route, bring to Concom for review, then finalize. The first section from Century Mill Road is an easement across private properties therefore that is not going to change and I have already started work on that route. From that point though, there is some variation that Concom will need to approve/authorize prior to any clearing or formalizing. Please let me know if you are interested in being a volunteer for this project. We will have work dates etc once the route is finalized.
- Drew is still waiting to get the trail formalized but note above does not mention it. He will discuss it with Rebecca.

### **Volunteer Newsletter**

- We should bring up that we need volunteers for this phase of bridge project. People should respond to [info@boltontrails.org](mailto:info@boltontrails.org) if they want to help. We don't have dates. We will communicate to the ones who respond once we have dates.
- Bob Hatch has a mechanical device which can be used to deliver Pea stone at other properties but not at Annie Moore.
- We should email to larger group as we did before.
- Black Friday Hike would be at North Brook Bridge but we should not advertise it yet.
- There is no update on the website so Hemali asks if you send more details than she can update websites Newsletter has latest news.
- Gordon said that he will update website.
- We can give update on Bolton Outdoor Challenge and may be North Brook Trail but may be not yet.

### **Wilder**

- Common driveway path clearance:
  - Rebecca responded that the deed needs to be reviewed along with referenced plans, then once confirmed mark the route of the related easement and clear as necessary. Brush hog could be used here once marked out.

Connection across Trustees land and private land. - Larry (Trustees and Davies Farm)

- The route is not very clear yet for the area on private land. It needs to be clarified by working with Rebecca first. First, someone needs to plan a walk with Rebecca needs to finalize the route from parking lot to the bridge. Larry was going to talk but since he was not present during this part of meeting, we don't have update yet.

### **Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities**

#### **Bowers: Invasives Sessions**

- Note from Rebecca:
  - Larry and Jan have been making a great effort at Bowers with the ISMP.
  - Bowers SVT will be cohosting a Weed Warrior Training on October 30 at 1 p.m. All those interested in attending the training to identify and map invasive plant locations should join!

#### **Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew**

- Drew reported that trail is done. During discussion with Kelly, who represents Escalante that Justin Schultz was surprised to see 2x4s which indicate direction through the fields. Kelly told us that the trail is the priority and hopefully we can coexist.
- Final step to request "Certificate of Compliance" through the town is done by Drew. There will be a meeting to discuss this.
- Gordon has several signs ready to be installed once we get approval to hang the signs.
- We need to wait to publish anything online until everything is finalized.

### **Hike**

- We discussed about hike on Black Friday for North-Brook.
- Note from Rebecca: It is a good idea as long as BCT and the private property owner are comfortable. She suggests to identifying an area that can accommodate associated parking. When this is scheduled please share the location and related details for sharing on the town sites and) notify public safety.
- Drew will respond to Rebecca once he has discussed with the Trust.

### **Wildflower walk document – Hemali**

- The web pages are work in progress. Hemali will share once ready.

### **Approved projects**

- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road Gordon and Drew. No changes. We are focused on Bridge project
- Bridge repair at Rattlesnake which is also noted on [Trailcare.com](http://Trailcare.com) has no changes. We will focus on Bridge project first.
- Vinger Venable Route clearance - Gordon: No change since we are focused on Bridge project

- Drew and Gordon discussed about who used to clear the meadow before. It seems like there was a volunteer who used to mow might be not doing it anymore since he is older.
- Drew discussed with Rebecca that DPW will mow the meadow now.
- Drew suggests that we should look into wooded part to clear the trail and restore it if we can during winter.
- Replace the sign at Haynes-Wheeler - Gordon has sanded, painted and got sign ready. Larry and Chris will help and hang the new sign. Chris and Betsy has cleared the undergrowth.

### **Chainsaw training Practical session**

- It will be offered at the MassTrails conference if you can attend. No one is going to the conference.

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

- Please coordinate with Rebecca.
- The Town now has a new brush hog. Also a DR string brush mover (aka a small brush clearance tool).
  - Larry has used it and gives a thumbs up. Key has to stay at the Town Hall. Check out when using it and return once completed.

### **Sign Database**

- [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP\\_zk](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP_zk)
- Gordon will update when any signs are replaced like Haynes-Wheeler, Keyes Farm and North-Brook Trail.

### **Area Review**

- <https://www.trailcare.com/map>
- Bowers
  - Drew reported that there is a massive tree at couple of places.
- Annie Moore
- Taggart, Wilder, Fyfeshire, Gould-white all are ok.
- Ballville - a small tree down.
- Welch Pond - someone has left two plastic chairs on the trail which Gordon reported as vandalism.
- Keyes Farm - there were a lot of big branches down. It was far away from trailhead and needs chainsaw.
- Danforth - chainsaw needed.
- Powder House

### **Trails Guide**

- There are < 20 left in stock (~6 remaining from BYB, ~7 at the TownHall, ~5 at the Bean). Probably enough for this year, but we should think about the next update so that it's coordinated with trail work. We should sell out first. The target list could drive our priorities after the bridges are complete.

- Rebecca has about 11 Bob Horton Memorial Trail Guides & 16 Bolton Conservation Trust Trail guides. If anyone is interested let Rebecca know. If the Otherwise she may just offer them for free at various events and let people know they're out of date.
- We are hoping to get to 2025. By the time new one is ready, it might be 2026. Gordon suggests not to put date but just announce number of edition in there with copyright date.

#### Suggestions:

- Ballville (easy to do, everything is ready to go; already on the website)
- Derby Field, can we do this or are there issues about access?
- Schultz Farm/International, probably by the time the Guide is complete these trails will be available because they are well on the way (thanks Drew)
- Welch Pond to Sawyer Road connector, maybe ready in time, It's not too much work if we use the currently tagged, but very steep route.
- Wilder connection and shared driveway path
- Tom Denny hike route
- A price increase might be appropriate to cover the extra pages.

#### **Deferred**

- Trail color coding
- 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...
- Century Mill Update
- Brush Hog or refurb/sickle bar purchase and storage