
Minutes of the September 09, 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

- Trust meeting did not meet quorum so nothing to report.

Fyfeshire Bridge Repair - Bob

- It's been very dry. Work will be possible soon if volunteers are available.

BOC boxes

- There are two missing boxes at Bowers. Challenge is almost over and Drew was not confident that the boxes will stay there if we replace them so it was decided to not replace those boxes.
- Gordon has put a note on website saying that people can take a selfie and share that since there are no boxes there.
- We have gotten positive feedbacks from participants during Backyard Bolton. Parents and kids said that they enjoyed this challenge. Chris asked them about their favorite trails and got good responses from them.

Backyard Bolton

- Drew said that he can help for September Backyard Bolton but he would need others to help him since he is going to be in and out. Keith might be able to help. Larry can help.
- We gave out the award to anyone that showed us completed booklets.

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

- Winslow Green wants to help when he can.
- From Rebecca
 - We have ordered the FRP material for the remaining crossings. When we have the delivery date I will reach out to you again, and provide outreach information to stir up volunteer teams!
 - We will need a lot of help for the Annie Moore components specifically (and the others at Vaughn). Again date TBD.
- From Keith
 - Rebecca will contract delivery of rocks. She will ask them where to deliver the rocks. She has not mentioned how to get to the bridge at the bottom of the hill without Gracie's bridge and how to go over Gracie's bridge without ramps. No delivery dates were scheduled yet.
 - If we want to work, If we can get landscape cloth on then we can put curbs on and we can put pea stone on the bridge. Keith will send an email about this . Drew has landscape cloth. He can leave it at trust office to be picked up. Gordon,

Larry, Drew, Chris and Keith were planning a day when they could start on this work.

- Waste material removal: we did not discuss this.
- Use of the old bridge materials elsewhere - Old Gracie's bridge - Rebecca might have a location in mind where it can be used.

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

- Construction will start in October There will be a meeting at that time. No updates until then.

Volunteer list

- Volunteer list is getting long. Gordon shared volunteer emails with everyone.
- We discussed what to share when we send a newsletter to everyone on the volunteer list and ask them to respond if they would like to work on Bridge project.
- Larry wants to do invasive clearing sessions but when they send emails requesting volunteers, he does not get a lot of presence.
- Should we share upcoming events in newsletter? We also discussed whom to send newsletter. Past couple of times we shared with larger group. Do we continue this?
- We also discussed if we ask people to respond if they want to be removed from the list.
- Hemali will draft a newsletter and share with group.
- Volunteer registration form submit button is broken after extra text was added on the form. It requires some work as form is auto-generated. We will need to programmatically add the text and make submit button work to make it operational. Hemali will investigate to fix.
- Putting pea stone on ramp can use more people so we could split into teams of 3 or 4. It can go on the newsletter as headline.

Wilder

- Common driveway path clearance:
 - We discussed that Rebecca or The trust has to write the documentation since proper language is needed. Rebecca was going to make a route and share that with Davis before getting final approval but we are still waiting for that. Larry will contact Rebecca. We need a route map to show the land owners.
 - We discussed that we will clear with Davis property first and then work with smaller lots. Joe Davis was happy to sign something and has agreed with Larry.

Major projects. List limited to top 3 priorities

Bowers: Invasives Sessions

- Larry says that poison Ivy is currently manageable with a walk behind device. We can do this after Jim Anderson mows the open meadow. Larry would ask Rebecca about the schedule.
- Once they get the brush cutter, they can do 20 inch strip along the edge after Jim clears the area. Meadow usually does not get cleared until bird season.
- Brush hog - **Rebecca** was going to get it serviced and get it functional again.
- Rebecca has ordered a Deere walk behind brush cutter/trimmer which will be delivered in September. Sickle bar will be part of the next fiscal year.

Connect Ballville Trails/The Oaks to Fyfeshire - Drew

- This is almost done. Drew is working on connection between Fyfeshire and Ballville Road. He has built the bridge, put stepping stones and marking trails with arrows.
- Once completed this will allow trail users to connect from 117 to Fyfeshire and then to Gould-white or you could go to Pine Hill Road using this trails.

Hike

- We discussed about hike on Black Friday. North-Brook might be done by then.

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 (also noted on Trailcare.com). No changes. We will focus on Bridge project first.
- Vinger Venable Route clearance - Gordon: No change since we are focused on Bridge project
- Replace the sign at Haynes-Wheeler - Gordon. Sign ready for installation; the supports are still in good shape, but need to be repainted.

Chainsaw training Practical session

- It will be offered at the MassTrails conference if you can attend.

Sign Database

- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QIkdiNJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP_zk

Area Review

- <https://www.trailcare.com/map>
- Rattlesnake
 - There is a tree that is split in half at park bench. It is a big tree.
 - Lime Kiln entrance - There was a tree down about 2 weeks ago. It is near second bridge not too far.
- Annie Moore
 - Small ones but a few trees which requires chain saw.
 - Damaged sign at Bartlett Mill - Gordon posted since screws are required.
 - Danforth - small tree requires clearing.
 - Vaughn Hills - Damaged sign that needs plexiglass.
 - Powder House: Drew has done some work there to replace markers.

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.

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

Any other Business