
Minutes of the June 02, 2025 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

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

Trust meeting. Drew

- There is no new update as there was no trust meeting since last meeting.

Trust Acquisitions

- Hazel property
 - Deal for this is closed now. Drew has started to reroute a small section. This will require map update. We need polygon for this property.
 - Gordon gets them from MassMapper website. Drew mentioned that since part of this property is being developed and part being conserved, the website might not be updated yet.

Rattlesnake Bog Bridge - Bob

- This project starts Sunday, June 7.
- It is 27 feet long bridge. They will get two 16' and 2 12' 8x8 and construction the bridge by hand.
- Bob said that they thought they won't be able to get the main beams as telephone poles are considered hazardous waste now. But, Chris Slade has 2 50 ft marine pilings on a truck in his backyard. He will cut it to 30 ft. They are 12 and 16 ft.
- They will bring all the material over the existing bridge with help of 20 people. They will disassemble existing bridge and build new bridge. Due to the size of the main bridge, they won't need anything additional to support underneath.
- They would weigh about 800 lb.
- Bob found that the best way to expedite Eagle Scout project is to communicate with the Scout District and Scout council.
- Rebecca signed all the documents and Bob dealt with communicated with the Scout District and Scout council to get this project moving.
- It does not apply to other projects mentioned below as those are not Eagle Scouts projects.

Wilder

- Rebecca said that the NOI documents will be drafted and submitted. Drew is working on this. He is almost done. He just needs signatures from the Town.
- The mailings will be sent to the abutters as there will be work done on wetland.
- Trust has approved this project. There is a nice donation from Cindy and rest will be picked up by the trust.

Scouts' projects

- Fyfeshire Bridge Repair
- Peach Hill Bridge Repair
- Ballville Trash Removal
- Vaughn Hills Pond submerged boardwalk removal
- Wilder Road Map (Needs coordination with other groups)
- No updates for this.

Mass Trails Bridges State Grant Update - clean up

- It was discussed that this will be done after the trail marking project is complete.
- Chris would take pictures and notes on what is left at each site so, we know what is left to be removed.
- This should be a volunteer day as we need 6 or so people to move the bridge. But, it was discussed that parking might be a problem if there are too many volunteers.
- Group has decided that they will meet Wednesday morning to move some of the left over items.

Volunteer newsletter - Hemali

- No updates.

Bowers

- Larry used brush hog to clear poison ivy near the trees and Nature camp area as well as some of the bittersweet plants. While using it, brush hog got a flat tire. Larry reported to the DPW. They will get that fixed.

Hikes

- Nothing new planned for next few months.

Wildflower walk document – Hemali.

- Printing copies on waterproof paper was discussed. We have gotten 20 laminated copies but not on waterproof paper.
- Out of the three copies left at the kiosk, only one is left so others are taken by someone.

Approved projects

- Rattlesnake/Skinner Land Bridge Repair on Sawyer Grist Mill path
 - This is on hold until Trail color marking is done. We have material but we need to do this in future.
- Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road Gordon and Drew. Needs maps and signs
 - This new proposed trail needs to be reviewed and approved.
- Vinger-Venable Route Clearance

- Vinger Venable Route modification
 - This project needs ConCom approval. Gordon is going to assemble a map and reasoning for Rebecca to use to raise awareness about the problem.
 - Some of the new trail is approved but rest needs to be approved. Trail would go through buffer zone so it might need approval.

Vaughn Hill

- Rebecca is installing signs for the trails that were created by mountain bikers.
- Rattlesnake also needs signs for dog walkers. There was an incident where professional dog walkers were seen with 12 to 15 dogs. Dogs are off leash so there is no control. This cannot be allowed. There should be no more than 2 dogs per person and they should be on leash.
 - Bob is working with Rebecca about putting signs for dogs and dog walker regulations.
 - If someone encounters a dog walker like this, we should call the police and they should bring animal control officer along with them. Information would also go on the sign that says that the "Police would be notified."
 - Non emergency numbers don't respond as quickly. Bob reported a poacher on the trail and he heard back 4 days later.
- Trail re-routing near the Moen entrance; do we need to do anything?
 - Rebecca mentioned that this is on hold.

Storage

- Volunteers need to get some time to organize and inventory items in the container.

Trail color coding - Rebecca.

- Rebecca and team. Colors done and grant requirements complete. Yellow (BHT) completed last Friday.
- Map <https://boltontrails.org/map6>
- Lengths extracted from the gps tracks:
- Yellow 1700 Meters = 5,577 feet 5.134 inches = 1.06 Miles - Done
- White 2277 Meters = 7,470 feet 5.669 inches = 1.4 miles - Done
- Green 2331 Meters = 7,647 feet 7.654 inches = 1.5 miles - Done
- Orange 2300 Meters = 7,545 feet 11.181 inches = 1.42 miles - Done
- Blue 2596 Meters = 8,517 feet 0.724 inches = 1.6 miles - Done
- Drew posted on Facebook to thank volunteers and inform public about the Trail color coding project.
- Maps need to be replaced. Gordon sent to Bob but, Rebecca or Lauren needs to print and laminate those and send to Bob so he can replace signs.

Sign Database

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

Area Review

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

- Houghton Farm, Taggart and Wilder look good.
- Gordon has reported a tree at North-brook that requires more than one person to clear. Larry will help Gordon to clear the tree.
- Fyfeshire, Welch Pond and Gould-White, Powder House and Rattlesnake areas look good.
- Someone has reported a tree that seems to be on private property.

Deferred

- Trails Guide print run — only 3 copies left in stock. Continue with the delay until color coding completed. Also, see how Welch Pond, Derby Field and Wilder changes work out.
- Wilder.
 - Common driveway — path clearance is probably not done. We should schedule time for this project.
- Century Mill Update - This would be a spring 2026 project.
- Derby Field Project
- Waiting for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant Project - Future Resilient Field at Derby
- Clarification needed from the people at 580 Main Street; noting heard recently.
- Trail destination signs will be needed