
Minutes of the December 01, 2025 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

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

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

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

Trust meeting - Drew

- The Zayka and Hazel property CRs will be presented to the ConCom and the Town meetings this week.
- A deal has been signed by private owner for a property on Sargent Road that is owned by Vattes family. We were working with them but, if the deal goes through, they might not be interested to conserve the land.
- Vespa property CR is in progress. DCR has approved. It will go to US board next.
- Trust has heard back from National Grid real estate division. They are reviewing two parcels that is connected to Houghton Farm. There is a route from there to connect to Zink-Northwoods if we acquire that land. Based on quick analysis they are unusable for National Grid so, they would let it go but, it would be based on fair market value. It's about 53 acres of land.
- They are going through list of potential properties to do outreach with them.
- There will be a winter-themed Winter Photo Contest from January 1 to April 1, 2026.
- Guidebooks will be sold at \$20 and increase the shipping to \$5. Since we can get Trust membership out of it, the small loss is considered ok.
- A deposit is given for Wilder Pond bridge but, no other movement on this project yet.
- Taggart route flagging has been done by Drew. He has a good route to share with Concom.

Bosselait Junction at Zink Northwoods - Drew

- This is on hold as Gordon is busy with the Guidebook and maps.
- There is draft documentation and Drew has been working with the Bosselait. Once Gordon is ready he will contact Drew to get details so, he can make signs.

Rattlesnake Bog Bridge - Bob

- Four big beams have been moved to the site. Rest of the wood also need to be moved to the site.
- Bob suggest to wait till water level goes down in late spring to be able to move the wood. A plan on how to cross the material and build on site is needed. Telephone poles and wood would be challenging due to weight and length. If water is very frozen, material can be moved across. Best solution is to wait till water level is down late in the spring and put supports to reduce vibration.

Moen Trail relocation - Keith and Chris

- Gordon and Chris went to check. Gordon suggested to move the first 75ft of the trail as its a mess. Gordon suggested to come up with a chord and pick up the trail about 75ft. They marked a rough marking for the trail. It needs to be reviewed by Rebecca. It was thought that the move was approved by Rebecca already.
- Other option would be to reduce the water that comes to this area but, it would require significant regrading as per Chris and Gordon as that area is downhill from the road. There is a lip but, its not helping.
- Chris, Keith and Gordon plans to do a site visit with Rebecca.

Wilder Bridge Repair

- Bob Hatch is busy. Drew is waiting to hear back.

Scouts' projects - Bob

No updates.

- Fyfeshire Bridge Repair
- Peach Hill Bridge Repair
- Ballville Trash Removal
- Vaughn Hills Pond submerged boardwalk removal

Annie Moore Kiosk

- Kevin Wheeler, another Eagle Scout candidate is working with Lauren and Rebecca on a project to install another kiosk at Annie Moore. Kiosk will be placed off of Annie Moore Road TH replacing the post/sign that is currently in place a few feet into the property.

Volunteer newsletter - Hemali

- We plan to send one in January. We discussed to highlight new Derby Field map and Guidebook 2026 edition along with Black Friday and New Year's Day hikes.

Bowers-Larry

Invasive Sessions

- They are working on stabilizing the footing for a as the new material and soil will arrive in spring. Beach sand does not hold well so, new soil would be similar to existing soil.
- Sink holes-Currently there is a hole over it. Rebecca is looking into if we can fill in a hole that is carved out by wild animals. If possible we could fill it in with material. Plan is to remove roots and fill in with new material in spring. Plan is to prevent erosion. Larry is working with Lauren and Rebecca.
- Chris is suggesting to temporarily close off the section with sink holes and exposed roots to avoid the hazard.

Smith/Hazel connection to Northwoods

- Bob sent an email that sign is ready to be placed. Drew will place order for material for sign.

Hikes

- Drew led the Black Friday hike. Lot of people joined along with Gordon, Betsy and Abbie. It was about 2 miles There were kids as well.
- New Year's Hike is planned at Taggart from Sand Road and will be advertised by the Trust via email and usual means.

Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road - Gordon, Drew

- John Mortimer, the scout who is planning to work on the Eagle Scout project, is getting final approvals and will require town signature which he anticipates getting the documents to conservation office shortly for signature. Lauren and Rebecca are working with him as land is owned by the town.

Approved projects

- Rattlesnake/Skinner Land Bridge Repair on Sawyer Grist Mill path - This is lower priority for now. Wood is ready in container.
- Vinger Venable Route clearance - Gordon - No updates but route was cleared it needs to be reinspected.

Vinger Venable Route modification

- No updates. It needs ConCom approval. Gordon to assemble a map and reasoning.

Storage

- Organize and inventory. No updates yet. Larry met with is Rebecca.
- Rebecca wants to not store a lot of inventory. She plans to order new wood and material for each project and only store left over.

Derby Field

A historical trail system that was in earlier trail guides. Working draft map:<https://boltontrails.org/map19>

- Map is on website. Gordon will make it public.
- Signs are needed at Derby Field. A sign is needed at the entrance, Bolton Bean, Town Field, Cell Tower, Berlin Rd. Signs should be placed at intersections. Rebecca can print signs and laminate if Gordon would confirm final signage formatting.

Trails Guide print run

- Now only 2 copies left in stock.
- Target to print new guides is 2026 edition that will be available soon.
- Gordon has been also updating maps online as he gets feedback for Guidebook.

Zayka property at Old Harvard Road

- We need to propose a trail and get approved by ConCom due to wetland
- Access to the road is limited due to Forsythia bushes and there is no way to haul material. Larry talked with DPW about either DPW bringing the chipper or we bring a small chipper. DPW said that they would do whatever they can to help us. They can either chip in place or haul away.
- Their chipper is bigger and can't be brought in the trail. If we want to chip and use it on trail, we would have to bring a small chipper or let them chip and we bring it in using wheel barrows. Drew would try to co-ordinate a date to do this work depending on weather.

Sign Database

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

Area Review

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

- Bower Springs bridge - Harvard agreed to help with the bridge that is in Harvard. Larry and Drew have a plan to help fix that bridge.
- Vaughn Hill:
 - There is an area that looks like its brushed off but, its not done by us.
 - There is a sign with message "closed for hunting season 1/1/2025" That also might be placed by land owners. Drew would have to talk with the land owners to get clarification. Betsy thinks that this is the Trust CR.
- Northwoods Trail has a tree down which Gordon would need help to clear.
- Welch Pond, Houghton Farm, Zink Northwoods, Gould-White, Taggart, Vinger-Vannable, Danforth, Fyfeshire, Keyes Farm, Derby Field, Rattlesnake, Annie Moore and Powder House I look good.
- Peach Hill Road has a tree down. We don't manage that area.

Deferred

- Wilder - Common driveway path clearance is probably not yet done. Also a Wilder Road Map installation needs coordination with other groups.
- Century Mill Update - This will be most likely a spring 2026 project. Margaret Campbell has some knowledge about historical trails in this area and might be available to show us the route(s). Trails planned. Volunteers and BTC will be needed for clearance of the pathway once flagged.