
Minutes of the March 05, 2026 Bolton Trails Steering Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Larry Kunz, Gordon Taylor, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy, Chris DeMers, Keith Silver, Steve Rothman, Sarah Ernest-Edwards

Chairperson - Larry

Note taker - Hemali

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

Trust meeting - Drew

- There was no meeting due to lack of quorum.

Bosselait Junction at Zink Northwoods - Drew

- Waiting for snow to melt.

Rattlesnake Bog Bridge - Bob

- Waiting for snow to melt.

Moen Trail relocation - Keith and Chris

- Waiting for snow to melt.

Wilder Bridge Repair

- ConCom is waiting for Bolton Conservation Trust and their contractor. Work start date depends on snow melt. It can be scheduled with very short notice.
- Gordon mentioned that Winslow's daughter, Cindy, has donated money for the Wilder Bridge project and is curious about its status, so Larry offered to reach out to her for an update.

Scouts' projects - Bob

No new updates yet.

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

Annie Moore Kiosk

- Waiting for snow to melt.

Volunteer newsletter - Hemali

- Hemali presented newsletter statistics, noting a 60% open rate but only 5% click-through rate. The team expressed surprise at the low engagement for the photo contest.
- Larry and Rebecca are planning a work session for Earth Day weekend. Town will send out communications soon.

Bowers-Larry

- Larry shared his plans for a work party on April 25-26 to clear invasive species and trail maintenance. The group will focus on clearing the area by the parking lot, clearing along the trail to the ponds, and maintaining the meadow between the trail and Tom Denny Nature Camp.
- They will use a brush hog for most areas, except around the ponds where hand cutting will be required to protect local species. Larry hopes for a good turnout and will create a plan allowing participants to choose their preferred work area.

Smith/Hazel connection to Northwoods

- Rebecca would be happy to do a site visit once snow melts.

Hikes.

- Drew is leading a hike on Sunday, March 22 at 11 a.m. for World Water Day.
- A hike is planned on April 22 at 1 p.m. for Earth Day.

Welch Pond Trail to Sawyer Road - Gordon, Drew

- John Mortimer, the scout is going to work on the Eagle Scout project.
- He would start the project after snow melts.

Approved projects

- Rattlesnake/Skinner Land Bridge Repair on Sawyer Grist Mill path - Drew has taken lumber out of container to get started but, this is on hold till spring due to snow.
- Vinger Venable Route clearance - Gordon - No updates.

Taggart extension

- Rebecca shared that Drew's presentation is being reviewed by Concom for authorization to submit NOI. Alternate route was proposed to avoid bridge with minimal road crossing due to extent of resource areas on site.
- She has asked Drew to go back to BCT to inquire if the bridge length/scale would be cost prohibitive as it would be required to cross the BLSF extent (to meet WPA and local Bylaw regs with potential compensatory flood storage requirement) not just the stream channel itself.

Derby Field

- Gordon reported that the site Visit was done by Gordon, Rebecca and Lauren despite the storm.
- Rebecca showed the details that Gordon was not aware of before. Map has to be updated with private lands. New locations for 12 more signs were identified.
- More wood would be needed for the frames of the maps. Gordon shared that one of Greg's sons has access to CNC machine and can help with the frames.

Acreages in all documents

- No updates yet. Gordon is planning to discuss with Rebecca.

Broken bridge at Bowers on Harvard land.

- Harvard has given us permission to fix it. It's on Harvard conservation Trust land. Project is waiting for snow melt.

Color-coded trails

- Gordon brought up that since there are piles of markers left over from the Rattlesnake project. How about using them on another Conservation area for example, Gould-White and Vaughn Hills are places where it can be easy to become lost. Also, it maybe useful to extend the white markers across the whole Bolton Loop Trail.
- Rebecca has responded that the marks are stockpiled for replacements. We can visit Gould White or Vaughn Hills and apply for funding for additional markers for those properties. Should be reviewed summer/fall.
- Rebeca does not recommend extending white markers beyond the parcel itself. As it is likely to utilize these markers/color system in other properties that do not connect to the Bolton Loop Trail sections. It will be important to keep that route identifiable and differentiated from other trails in other properties.

Sign Database

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LUFOfmopVxOHxnb8QlkdINJPjnd-nkSdTR8I0ifP_zk.

Area Review

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

- Welch Pond, Powder Mill, Houghton Farms, Zink Northwoods, Taggart, Wilder, Vinger-Vannable, Danforth, Fyfeshire, Keyes Farm, Derby Field, Rattlesnake and Annie Moore are ok.
- Bowers Bridge repair at Harvard should be on agenda.
- Vaughn Hill has a lot of tracks from Woodside Drive going up to the North peak. There is a down tree near the new switch back.
- Bower Springs bridge - Site visit is done. Larry and Drew have a plan to fix that bridge.

- NorthBrook Trail has a tree down which requires one more person so, Gordon has not done it. It seems like it can be dragged but not by one person.
- Signs there have fallen to the side. It requires post hole digger. Drew wants to only use manual post hole digger due to agriculture land.
- Gould-White has a post that needs to be replaced.

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 - Rebecca shared that this will be a priority field work project in Fall 2026 – (clearing route is confirmed by concom)
- Rebecca also noted that due to resource areas within other open space parcels and the purpose of conserving those adjacent parcels (rare and endangered species or habitat) not ALL OS parcels of CME will have trails, even those that had cart paths.

April Meeting - Hemali

24. Any other Business

- Rebecca asked if BTC wish to coordinate with Rebecca (conservation staff) and have a lead volunteer for each core property? This is to plan "regular maintenance" items for that particular property.
- She also mentioned that Commission would discuss updating dogs on conservation land rules and regulations (specific to Bowers) at their March meeting.