

**Bolton Trails Committee**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 19, 2022**  
**Minutes**

The Bolton Trails committee met on Tuesday April 19, 2022, at the Town Hall. In attendance were First Selectman Pam Sawyer, Selectman Bob Morra, Interim Town Administrative Officer Jim Rupert, Rod Parlee, Leslie Alexander, Kathy McCavanagh, Gwen Marrion and Ron and Debbie Beaudoin.

**1. Call to order by Pam Sawyer at 11:04 am.**

Pam, this committee is the overview of Trails. No decisions or discussions will be made today, this is more of informational meeting that is going on between Town of Bolton and the DOT.

Jim, “please continue to share information about the trails. It is much appreciated that many of you have reached out to me. Continue with any questions that you may have.” This a meeting to catch up.

**2. Pathway from Firehouse to Farm**

Pam, where we left off. Project started in 2016. In 2019 the town received a commitment to receive a \$186,110 under the State DOT’s Community Connectivity Grant Program to fund several projects intended to improve safety through the center of town for walkers, bikers and to connect to historic building in the center. There have been many growing pains. These projects were to be from concept to construction. The grant had gone stale.

Jim will tell where we stand at this time. Sent a letter to State DOT to get the grant reinstated and it was. DOT asked that they be notified quarterly on progress with the projects. Concern about trees. Keep trees along the pathway during construction. We have talked to Justin from Distinctive Tree Care, he is an arborist he will preserve the trees. He has done a large project at UCONN in Storrs. Would like to bring him on as a consultant for

this project. So, we can take care of the trees during construction Joe Dillon, town engineer, going back to make tweaks and bring it back to public in May.

Trail from firehouse to farm was not originally going to go to the farm but with the shortening of the pathway in front of the Bolton Congregational Church was stopped. It was decided to make it go to the farm. CROG grant applications state that the brick in front of the State troopers office would follow up to town hall parking lot and go behind town hall to the farm. There would be a wooden platform to cover wetlands and bridge will go over the water there. We may also want to get in touch with a master gardener to put signage, plant and animal species along the way. The trail going there would be 10 feet wide for multipurpose use, walking, biking, running and cross-country skiing. This part of the trail would be 100% ADA accessible. Historic places in town. This is an exciting project it is a meaningful trail. Accessible to Bolton Center Rd mineable improvements make a space for portlets and access to site.

Gwen, looking over the original application for the grant and there are things that have not been done. Certain road striping on the different roads around the center of town, 7-foot signs, wooden posts on Bolton Center Rd. If all these things get done town should be able to get new funding. Doesn't think the new program has started yet it is for rural towns not sure Bolton would qualify for this one, but she will research to find out.

Pam would like to review the application. She will get answers and get back to Gwen and use this for future meetings.

Jim talked about the money part. Price of materials have gone up expediently that all the money would be needed in this case.

Gwen also noted that there are additional grants for trails.

- **This will be put on agenda for next meeting.**

Parking at the barn must be approved by the State Heritage Commission. We are aware. Bob, walking path you can have a walkway can move the

stripping we review next meeting. Safety DOT did a tour of town. We need to complete all the things on the list from the DOT.

- **This will be put on agenda for next month.**

### **3 & 4 Discussion on Cook Drive/Rails to Trails & DOT/Expressway Bolton Notch Update**

Pam Asked by Barbara Amodio to take a tour will do this at the end of the month.

Several years ago, Bob did a walk through with Bike group and Lance Dimock, there was a very steep incline and water drains through there. To meet guidelines, it would exceed the expenses to meet today's standards. Relocating of Notch Rd to redirect the trail would be from Notch Rd to connect Rt 44 over the flyover way and eliminate the pathway. Connect to rails to trails.

Gwen, Cook Drive to Knoll less than 100 feet could be weed wacked and remove rocks and raked. That would answer the request from homeowner. Sign to indicate Notch Rd and Cook Drive.

There were 3 meeting with the DOT and CROG about a way to come thru the Bolton Notch project Rt 6/44 toward the end of Notch Rd to quarry. Quarry had no activity at that time, but it has since been sold to local business Landy Construction. They are planning to use the old quarry as a parking lot for their equipment.

Discussion with DOT about safety with regards of car traffic, foot traffic and cyclists. Total change and come out Brook Dr behind England's Hardware up to Rt44. Drawings at Town Hall.

Pam will not let the DOT just put anything at the end of Notch Rd she would like it top drawer. Not happy with the way it looks today. It is the Gateway to Bolton and Eastern Connecticut so it should present that way. DOT suggested in taking down the overhead signs and put them on sides of trail. Regulars would not see the signs it would be good for newcomers.

Bob maps are in Town Hall.

DOT plan for Bolton Rt 6&44 is top priority. Slowing traffic down is DOT and Town vision.

Pam there are a lot of moving pieces. Take the time and do it right.

Lance stated to Pam that shifting the end of Notch Rd toward the west is a faster lane towards Manchester.

## **5. Discuss Next Meeting Date**

If you get public comments, please call Kathy to get more on the agenda.

Also, if there are items you would like to add to the agenda contact Kathy.

Next meeting date Wednesday May 25, 2022, at 11 am. We will also meet in June and then again in September.

- \*More information from DOT

- \*Public comment

- \*Nathan Hale parking lot

Other topics thru minutes in bold.

## **6. Adjournment**

11:46 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Heckman

*Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.*