

Bolton Trails Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Friday October 22, 2021 12:00 p.m.
Bolton Town Hall

The Bolton Trails Committee met on Friday, October 22, 2021 at the Bolton Town Hall. In attendance were First Selectperson Sandra Pierog, Selectperson Bob Morra, Bob Lessard, Lance Dimock and Gwen Marrison. The meeting came to order at 12:05.

1. Nathan Hale Greenway: The access to the former DOT staging area on Route 6 next to the property currently occupied by Bolton Collision was discussed. The sight line from the access looking south is partially obstructed so alternatives were considered. The business owner was contacted by Josh Kelly, former Town Administrative Officer, in January 2020 and it was explained that the Town is proposing to use the adjacent property as a parking area.

The group discussed the option of moving the entrance north (toward Munson's). Because Route 6 rises as it heads north, fill will be required to construct the new driveway.

The surface of the parking area seems to be stable, well-drained and would not need much work to make it suitable for parking cars. Town Engineer Joe Dillon had prepared a construction estimate dated December 4, 2020 and it was discussed that perhaps some of the items such as screening trees and 6 inches of top soil are not necessary.

An idea was raised that a dry hydrant could be placed in the pond next to the parking area which would serve area businesses. The Town could consider using funds previously set aside for dry hydrants to partially fund the cost of constructing the new access to the parking area and the dry hydrant.

Next steps: Joe Dillon will be asked to do a cost estimate for designing and constructing an access to the parking area to be located north of the current access to create adequate sight lines while keeping it as far south as possible to minimize the fill needed as a result of the rising grade of Route 6.

2. Community Connectivity: On January 18, 2019 the Town received a commitment to receive \$186,110 under the State DOT's Community Connectivity Grant Program to fund a number of projects intended to improve safe passage through the center of town for walkers and cyclists and to connect the historic buildings in the center.

Gwen reported that in July 2021 the Town asked the Bolton Congregational Church to grant an easement in front of the church in order to locate a portion of the path there. Members of the church viewed the proposed location and on October 13 Church Council voted not to allow the path to be located there. Comments received were that the path would degrade the aesthetic appearance of the historic church, the gravel surface could erode and be messy and passing cyclists and walkers at the base of the church steps might interfere with those attending Sunday services, funerals or weddings.

An alternative location for the path was discussed, which is to have it turn off Toomey Road near the old well near the Pistritto carriage house, run behind the Pistritto house, through the town hall parking lot and behind the church's education building. The problem noted about this scenario is that there is discussion about possibly using the Pistritto house area for expansion of the town hall.

The path mapped by Joe Dillon shows the path behind the library and running along the east side of Toomey Road. A portion would be gravel and a portion paved. The group felt this is an acceptable location, and the path would end at the Town Hall parking lot. There is an existing trail leading from Toomey Road near the library east through the woods to the northwest corner of the Heritage Farm (where there is now a picnic table). This provides a connection to the farm which was one of the goals stated in the Community Connectivity grant. There was some discussion about the wetlands in this wooded area and that it might be adequate to leave this section of trail as it is and not widen or improve it.

There was discussion about the portion of the proposed path between the corner of Notch Road and Bolton Center Road, specifically how piping the existing ditch on the north side of the road might affect the drainage under the road, whether the ditches on both sides of the road should be piped at the same time or whether work under the Community Connectivity grant should be started as soon as possible because the Town can't apply for other grants under the program until the first project is completed. Bob Lessard asked whether people will want to park at the fire house to access the new path.

3. Other: Gwen suggested that there should be a chair of the Trails Committee and that the committee should meet regularly, even if it is quarterly so that ongoing issues can be addressed. Sandy said she is the chair. The group informally agreed to meet next in January 2022.

Prepared by

Gwen E. Marrion