

Groton Trails Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 6, 1998

Location: Legion Hall Meeting Room

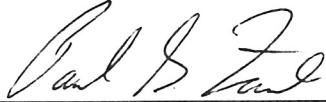
In attendance:

William Boston, Robert Catlin, Bruce Clements, Paul Funch, John Head, Stephen Legge, Richard Lodge, Evan Owen (Absent: Stacey Chilcoat, Douglas Furciniti, Wendy Good, Edward McNierney, Brad Paul, Stephen Prendergast, David Riggert)

1. Bob Catlin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. Bob moved: That the minutes of the April 22 meeting be approved.
 - a) The motion was seconded by Bill Boston.
 - b) The motion was approved: 8 In Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions
3. Helene and Bruce Easom, of 435 Martins Pond Road, addressed the Committee regarding their concerns about the impacts of the Campbell Trust Development on their continued access to trails that are important to their equestrian business.
 - a) The Committee agreed to approach the town's Campbell Trust Committee with our interest in keeping trail links intact through the development.
 - b) The Committee suggested that the Easoms consider how access for the public might be maintained through their land if links to their property were maintained through the Campbell Trust development to benefit their business.
 - c) The Easoms were requested by the Committee to sketch out a map of the trails that they currently use.
4. Gail Greenlaw, of 19 Mill Street, addressed the Committee regarding her concerns about the impact of losing trail access across the former Banus property on Longley Road. Alternate access to the Fitch's Woods area from Longley appears to be necessary to maintain a link from Shepley Hills. Gail also noted that a New England Forestry Foundation employee had told her that she could not ride her horse in Groton Place.
5. Bill Boston suggested that perhaps trails could be located in the 100' buffer zone around wetlands. While this area may not always be suitable for trails, it might be easier to negotiate access to such land.
6. There was a follow-up discussion from the last meeting regarding a portion of Jenkins Road that has been blocked by Al Friedrich. It had not been possible to set up a meeting with Mr. Friedrich since the last meeting.
7. Bob Catlin moved: To publish the Trails Committee article for the Groton Herald that Paul Funch had written, with the consideration of some comments that were offered by Steve Legge and Richard Lodge.
 - a) The motion was seconded by Richard Lodge.
 - b) The motion was approved: 8 In Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions
8. Per the Committee's request, the Planning Board has agreed to send the Committee (the Chair) a copy of all "Request for Comment" documents that they are reviewing.

9. Bob Catlin said that he had not heard anything regarding the Fitch's Bridge refurbishment proposal that the Greenway Committee submitted to the Montachusets Regional Authority. Since this indicates that funding is probably not forthcoming this year, efforts are turning to the development of a more complete proposal for next year.
10. Information on signage was obtained by Evan Owen and was passed around for review. Trail markers were priced at \$600 per thousand, for example. Gail Greenlaw advised against round trail markers from her experiences with them.
11. Steve Legge noted that county roads have 40 to 50 feet of right-of-way, with 18 to 24 feet of pavement being the norm. While putting bike/pedestrian/horse trails on the right-of-way is sometimes possible, the pavement may actually go from edge to edge of the right-of-way rather than staying centered or on one side only. There are also some "2 rod roads," like Longley Road, that have rights-of-way that are only 33 feet wide.
12. Bob Catlin summarized what he believed were the two main areas that the Committee should concentrate on in its upcoming meetings:
 - a) Identify and mark town trails that currently exist.
 - b) Preserve trails against development to maintain linkages throughout Groton.
13. John Head moved: That the meeting be adjourned.
 - a) The motion was seconded by Evan Owen.
 - b) The motion was approved: 8 In Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions
 - c) The fourth meeting of the Trails Committee was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul G. Funch
Secretary

5/22/98

Date

These minutes were approved on May 20, 1998:
12 In Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions