

Groton Trails Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 20, 1998

Location: Legion Hall Meeting Room

In attendance:

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

1. Ed McNierney called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.
2. Following review and a brief discussion, Ed moved: That the minutes of the May 6 meeting be approved, with two minor modifications.
 - a) The motion was seconded by Bob Catlin.
 - b) The motion was approved: 12 In Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions
3. Ed McNierney noted the following:
 - a) The Groton Trails Committee (GTC) had its introductory article published in the Groton Herald the previous week.
 - b) The GTC was receiving the "Request for Comment" information from Michelle Collette (Planning Board) as requested. There was a brief discussion of what should be done with it, and how to avoid the inefficiencies attendant with having all GTC information come through Ed.
 - c) Ed reported that he had performed an "experiment" with the handheld GPS unit and found the results (reception in the woods) and ease of use very promising.
4. It was noted that the concern expressed at the May 6 meeting by Gail Greenlaw appears to be a non-issue. There does not appear to be any concern from the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) regarding horse riding in Groton Place.
5. For the benefit of those who had missed the May 6 meeting, Steve Legge reviewed the results of his meeting with Tom Delaney (Highway Dept.) and Michelle Collette regarding rights-of-way along roads. He also noted that the Groton street maps are a real mess; many are missing and most not having been updated since the 1950s or earlier. Because of the different widths of rights-of-ways for state, county, and town roads, and the wandering of the pavement along the rights-of-way, each road would have to be looked at on a case by case basis to assess the potential for developing a trail alongside the roadway. It is hoped that the new town land survey being done this year will help, though it is not known to what extent the roads will be surveyed.
6. Bob Catlin noted that he had discussed cooperation between the GTC and the NEFF with Mr. Keith Ross, district manager of the NEFF. Bob said Mr. Ross was very supportive, and Mr. Ross offered to help the GTC in any way that he could with developing and maintaining trails on NEFF properties.
7. Discussion was reopened on the "blockage" of Hemlock Park Drive by verbal directives from the owner of the nearby land. Evan Owen noted that the assessors map shows the road itself is privately owned. However, it was noted by Ed that he

- thought that state law provides that if the road is not blocked off for at least one whole day per year, then it can be considered a public right of way. Paul Funch suggested that we compile the specific state and local regulations that apply to the GTC's efforts. He noted that the General Laws of Massachusetts are on-line on the Internet and he promised to distribute the URL address to the GTC.
8. It was reported that the Fitch's Bridge refurbishment proposal, submitted by the Greenway Committee to the Montachusets Regional Authority, was second to Gardner's proposal. A final decision was still pending, apparently waiting for resolution of matching funds from Gardner, MA.
 9. It was noted that Dan Chamberlin is the point of contact in Groton for the Rail Trail.
 10. Bob Catlin provided a handout of "Proposed Subcommittees of GTC and Their Activities." Following discussion, Steve Prendergast moved: That four subcommittees be established, as recommended in the handout from Bob Catlin.
 - a) The motion was seconded by Ed McNierney.
 - b) The motion was approved: 12 In Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions
 11. Members of the GTC volunteered to serve on the four subcommittees as follows:
 - a) Documentation - Ed McNierney, Brad Paul, Bruce Clements, Steve Legge, Doug Furciniti
 - b) Policy and Planning - Bob Catlin, Wendy Good, Bruce Clements
 - c) Maintenance and Signage - Evan Owen, Doug Furciniti, Dave Riggert, Steve Prendergast
 - d) Education and Publicity - Paul Funch, Brad Paul, Stacey Chilcoat
 12. It was felt that the subcommittees should have the opportunity to meet once or twice before the next general meeting of the GTC. Therefore, the next general meeting was scheduled for the second Wednesday of July, the 8th. There was agreement that the general meetings of the GTC should be put on a regular schedule, and the second Wednesday of the month appeared to be best for everyone in attendance.
 13. Paul Funch offered to send e-mail to members of the GTC to notify them of the July meeting, to list the volunteers on the four subcommittees, and to ask those who were not present to join their preferred subcommittee(s).
 14. Doug Furciniti moved: That the meeting be adjourned.
 - a) The motion was seconded by Bob Catlin.
 - b) The motion was approved: 12 In Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions
 - c) The fourth meeting of the Trails Committee was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul G. Funch
Secretary

7/9/98

Date

These minutes were approved on July 8, 1998:
9 In Favor, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions