

# **Groton Trails Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

### **January 19, 1999**

**Location:** Legion Hall Meeting Room

**Members In Attendance:**

Robert Catlin, Bruce Clements, Paul Funch, Douglas Furciniti, Wendy Good, Stephen Legge, Richard Lodge, Edward McNierney, Brad Paul, David Riggert

**Members Absent:**

Bruce Easom, Stephen Prendergast

**Guests:**

Alex Woodle

1. Ed McNierney called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.
2. Changes in the composition of the Trails Committee were noted: William Boston, Stacey Chilcoat, John Head, and Evan Owen have stepped down as voting members of the Trails Committee. Bruce Easom was appointed by the Selectmen to serve on the Trails Committee.
3. The minutes of the July 8, 1998 meeting were unanimously approved.
4. There was discussion regarding the election of new officers for the Trails Committee. There was general agreement that new officers should be elected each year. However, since many of our recent meetings were unable to reach quorum, since our current officers began their terms in March 1998, and since the fiscal year for Town Committees starts in July, it was felt that the current officers should continue in their positions through June 30, 1999. A motion to this effect was made by Brad Paul, seconded by Steve Prendergast, and unanimously approved.
5. The major discussion of the evening was focused on how to organize the committee so that it could be more efficient and productive. In the end, there was general agreement that our organization by function (policies, education and publicity, maintenance, documentation (mapping), etc.) was working well, but that an increased emphasis on projects, deadlines, and deliverables would be helpful. Some of the projects that were discussed included:
  - a) Early placement of signs in new subdivisions to raise awareness of easements and conservation land (e.g., the new Deer Haven subdivision on Rte. 40).
  - b) Mapping of existing trails and conservation land to raise awareness for newcomers to town.
  - c) Proactive protection of threatened lands.
  - d) Investigation of new and suspected subdivisions for new and old trail systems and easements.
  - e) Investigation of "easy" parcels the Town could consider acquiring.
  - f) Investigation of existing easements in Town records.

Following this discussion, Steve Legge moved, and Steve Prendergast seconded, that "The Chairman should appoint (tonight) a small subcommittee, including himself, that would set

an agenda for a period of 12 months to recommend specific goals for review and approval by the full Trails Committee.” An amendment was recommended by Paul Funch, and seconded by Steve Prendergast, that “an agenda” should be replaced by “a monthly milestone schedule.” Both the amendment and the main motion were approved unanimously. Ed McNierney appointed Bob Catlin and Wendy Good to the subcommittee and said they would circulate a draft of the monthly milestone schedule for comment by the next meeting.

6. The Committee reviewed the attached draft letter that Ed McNierney had written to the Montachusets Regional Planning Committee. The letter will be included in an application to be submitted by the Greenway Committee for funds to restore Fitch's Bridge for pedestrian and equestrian use. The Committee unanimously approved the letter without modification.
7. Ed McNierney noted that the Conservation Commission has a new Sign Subcommittee that has been provided some funding. The head of the subcommittee is Laura Lefebvre. Doug Furciniti agreed to investigate how our Committee might interact with the Sign Subcommittee.
8. Subcommittee reports
  - a) Publicity and Education: Paul Funch reported that the Groton Town Forest Trail Races on Saturday, October 17, 1998 had raised over \$700 for Town Forest signage. He emphasized the need to come up with a plan for using the funds in the near future so that the benefits from the races could be demonstrated to the Town of Groton.
  - b) Policy and Planning:
    - i) The walk was held in the Patridgeberry Woods area to plan the location of the bridge offered by the Old North Bridge Hunt. A distant (from the subdivision) site would require an approximately 30 foot span whereas a closer site, over the dry end of a creek, would only require a 12 to 15 foot span. The long span would be difficult and expensive to build and thus the closer site is preferable.
    - ii) Progress, albeit slow, is being made on the Jenkins Road situation (e.g., site walks).
9. Bob Catlin moved, and Ed McNierney seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul G. Funch  
Secretary

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Date

These minutes were approved unanimously on February 16, 1999.