

**Groton Trails Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**February 16, 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

**Members Absent:**

Bruce Easom, Stephen Prendergast, David Riggert

**Guests:**

George Marsh, Bev Rodrigues, Larry Swezey

1. Ed McNierney called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. Bob Catlin made a request to the Trails Committee that the discussion stay focused on the agenda items. The Committee unanimously accepted the challenge.
3. Ed moved to accept the minutes of the October 26, 1998 and January 19, 1999 meetings. The motion was seconded by Richard Lodge and unanimously approved.
4. There was an extended discussion regarding a draft Major Projects Plan that was developed by Ed and Bob in response to a motion passed at the January 19, 1999 meeting.
  - a) Ed noted that they did not try to use the current subcommittee structure to organize the projects and the schedules were intentionally aggressive. Their goal was to identify one or owners for each activity who would be responsible for moving the project along and for reporting progress, status, and issues to the Committee at future meetings. There was a desire to avoid using the "subcommittee" designation because of its tendency to exclude participation by its "formality." The idea was to encourage everyone to participate on whatever projects that interested them.
  - b) Concerns raised in the discussion included:
    - i) There were too many different directions. The Trails Committee would be spread too thin.
    - ii) Some of the projects were not specific enough.
    - iii) Some projects might be of value to the Committee but may not be perceived as valuable by the Town.
    - iv) It was not clear how the overall priorities of the Committee would be reflected in the specific projects selected within each major project area.
  - c) The Committee went through each project activity to prioritize those that should be addressed immediately and to identify an owner or two. It was agreed that each owner will be responsible for fleshing out the details of their project and presenting their results at the next meeting of the Committee. The results of this process were as follows:
    - i) Mapping
      - Field techniques ready: Owned by Ed and Bruce Easom.
      - Prioritized field research plan: Deferred to the April meeting.

- Remaining activities will be assigned at a later date.
  - ii) Subdivisions and Threatened Areas
    - Create inventory of all subdivision plans underway: Owned by Richard Lodge.
    - Create inventory of all approved subdivision plans: Owned by Richard Lodge.
    - Create a working and workable process for Planning Board interaction: Owned by Brad Paul.
    - Remaining activities will be assigned at a later date.
  - iii) Land Inventory
    - Inventory current Town land: Owned by Bob Catlin.
    - Inventory current Town easements: Owned by Bob Catlin.
    - Define a trail and easement maintenance process: Owned by Wendy Good and Bruce Clements.
    - Schedule trail and easement maintenance: Owned by Wendy Good and Bruce Clements.
  - iv) Usage of Private Lands - Will be assigned at a later date.
  - v) Funding - Will be assigned at a later date.
  - vi) Policy and Usage
    - Create liaison activities with other open space and conservation organizations: Owned by Bob Catlin and Brad Paul.
    - Remaining activities will be assigned at a later date.
5. Ed requested that each Committee member should submit to him, by February 24th, a list of the projects that they felt should be priorities for the Committee in the coming months/year. These would be posted on our web site for review and would be discussed at the March meeting.
  6. Bob Catlin moved, and Doug Furciniti seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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 Paul G. Funch  
 Secretary

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 Date

These minutes were approved unanimously on March 16, 1999.