

**Groton Trails Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**May 18, 1999**

**Location:** Downstairs, Legion Hall

**Members In Attendance:**

Bruce Clements, Bruce Easom, Paul Funch, Douglas Furciniti, Wendy Good, Stephen Legge, Edward McNierney, Brad Paul, Stephen Prendergast, David Riggert

**Members Absent:**

Robert Catlin, Richard Lodge

**Guests:**

Helene Easom

1. Ed McNierney called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. The minutes of the April 20, 1999 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Ed noted that the Selectmen were making their reappointments to the various town committees. He suggested that anyone not interested in continuing their membership on the Trails Committee should notify the Selectmen's Office. Ed also noted that Richard Lodge has indicated that he would be resigning from the Trails Committee.
4. Major projects reports included the following:
  - a) Ed explained that the Assessor's Office and the Town Building Inspector would be using free software (Arc Explorer) to view and print maps. Except for perhaps a large format printer, they did not need any sophisticated GIS software or equipment. A town-wide needs assessment is in progress to help in the planning and purchase (on the order of \$10K) of whatever software is necessary to provide the advanced GIS capabilities required by the Trails Committee and others.
  - b) It was noted that Richard's resignation from the Committee leaves a gap in the Subdivisions and Threatened Areas project.
  - c) No information was available on any progress made by Bob Catlin on the Land Inventory project.
  - d) The Committee discussed possible interactions with the Planning Board and developers with respect to marking easements. Ed agreed to get us on the Planning Board agenda to discuss this issue. Paul Funch suggested that whoever went to the Planning Board meeting should prepare a proposal for discussion by the Trails Committee, based on the outcome of the Planning Board discussion. The general discussion of this issue included the following observations:
    - i) Marking the entire easement, the trail across the easement, or just the entrance to the easement could be used to identify easements. For clarity (to the subdivision homeowners in particular), there was general agreement that

- marking the entire easement was preferable so that its "reserved" status would be clear from the outset.
- ii) Bruce Clements noted that Woodland Park, being developed by Hicks near the intersection of Old Dunstable and Island Pond Roads, would possibly be giving 30 acres of land that would connect to the Red Line.
  - iii) Most land is obtained as "open space" and given to the Town as Conservation Land under rules of Flexible Development.
5. Ad hoc project reports included the following:
- a) It was reported that Dan O'Brien (Dept. Environmental Management) has indicated that all permits have been approved and design is complete for the Rail Trail. However, the money will be coming from Massachusetts highway funds, and these funds are being lost to "The Big Dig."
  - b) Ed displayed samples of the Town Forest Trail Maps that he had prepared for the Committee. He solicited feedback on which were preferred and what modifications should be made. There was general agreement on the format and the final details were left to Ed, Paul, Bruce E., and Steve L. to work out.
6. The following nominations were made for Committee Officers for next year, beginning June 1999:
- a) Chair: Brad Paul, Bob Catlin (by virtue of his being the current Vice Chair)
  - b) Secretary: Bruce Easom
7. Bruce Clements recommended instituting a "Project of the Month" and the idea was greeted with enthusiasm. The following members volunteered to organize and advertise the monthly projects:
- a) June: Bruce C.
  - b) July: Ed
  - c) August: Bruce E. and Wendy
  - d) September: Dave
  - e) October: Town Forest Trail Race
  - f) November: Paul
8. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote 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 June 22, 1999.