

Groton Trails Committee
Minutes of Meeting
July 20, 1999

Location: Downstairs, Legion Hall

Members In Attendance:

Robert Catlin, Bruce Clements, Bruce Eason, Paul Funch, Wendy Good, Stephen Legge, Edward McNierney, Stephen Prendergast, David Riggert

Members Absent:

Douglas Furciniti, Brad Paul

Guests:

None

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM.
- 2) Bruce Eason moved to accept the minutes of the June 22, 1999 meeting. The motion was seconded by Paul Funch and unanimously approved.
- 3) Edward McNierney reported on four items.
 - a) The first was a report on the site walk of the Skyfields II site. Bruce Clements had provided a set of survey maps of the area for reference. An initial assessment indicated that the existing trail markers do indeed properly identify the location of the trail but the trail width may not be accurate. Bruce Clements suggested that the trail committee should move the existing markers to reflect the true width of the parcel coming off Skyfields II and to add additional markers to reduce the distance between sets of markers. It was also noted by Ed and Bruce Clements that some trail maintenance is needed on the adjoining Parcel X.
 - b) Ed also reported that persons interested in helping with the July project to mark the trailheads in the Northwoods subdivision should meet at Northwoods at 3:00 PM on Sunday 25 July 1999. Brad Paul is available at this time with his tractor and auger to dig the postholes. The posts are ready and the hole locations have already been marked.
 - c) Ed also reported that the assessors mapping system is still delayed. No definite date was available for its implementation.
 - d) The Town Clerk has agreed to sell the maps of the trails in the Town Forest for \$1.00. Ed reported that some minor changes had been made to the map since the Trail Committee saw it at the meeting on 20 July 1999. Ed agreed to investigate making the maps available on the town's web site.

- 4) Stephen Prendergast reported on the status of the rail trail. The work will go out to bid in September and construction is scheduled to begin next year (2000). It was noted that the trail is currently in need of maintenance and the maintenance should not wait until construction begins.
- 5) Bruce Easom reported that he contacted Dig Safe and asked them to mark the underground utilities in the Northwoods subdivision. Bruce Easom walked the site with representatives from the Groton Electric Light Department and found that the underground electrical lines would not be affected by the locations of the proposed postholes. Colonial gas and Boston Gas did not have lines in the area and neither did the Groton Water Department. Bell Atlantic marked their lines and none were near the locations of the proposed postholes. Bruce also reported that nine posts would be required to mark the trailheads on Groton Conservation Commission land and that he had 11 on hand.
- 6) David Riggert reported on three items.
 - a) Concerning the railroad that runs along Townsend Road, the town of Townsend has passed on acquiring the right-of-way. David suggested that we should make this fact known to Groton's Selectmen. David agreed to call Jean Kitchen to bring this to the attention of the Selectmen.
 - b) David suggested that the Trails Committee ask the New England Forestry Foundation to contact landowners near Groton Place in order to reestablish trail access. The committee agreed to put this item on its job list.
 - c) David also had three items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - i) The Jenkins Road access issue should be brought to the attention of the Selectman again because it seems to have fallen off their radar screen.
 - ii) The boundary of the town owned parcel abutting Jenkins Road needs to be clearly marked.
 - iii) The Committee agreed that Brad Paul should contact the Selectman to ask that the town commit the resources necessary to survey this area. An up-to-date survey is needed to help resolve the access issue on this important piece of trail-connecting land.
- 7) Bob Catlin reported on the September project to put a cart bridge over some low-lying areas along the Nashua River north of Route 225. Bob recommended that the bridges be 8 to 10 feet wide and 8 to 10 feet in length in two locations. He noted that, in addition to the bridges, some additional brush clearing would be required to make the trails more usable.

- 8) Paul Funch made a request for volunteers to help with the Groton Trail Race scheduled for October 24, 1999 in the Town Forest. The first race is scheduled for 12:30 PM and the second for a 12:40 start. Paul indicated that people interested in volunteering could call him to find out what jobs were needed to be filled.
- 9) It was decided that the next meeting of the Trials Committee would be Tuesday, 17 August at 7:30 PM. in the Legion Hall. The meeting after that is scheduled for 21 September 1999.
- 10) A motion to adjourn was made by Stephen Prendergast and seconded by Bob Catlin. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce H. Easom
Secretary

26 February 2000
Date

These minutes were approved unanimously on 17 August 1999.