

**Groton Trails Committee
Minutes of Special Meeting
November 16, 1999**

Location: Downstairs, Legion Hall

Members of Groton Trails Committee in Attendance:

Robert Catlin, Bruce H. Easom, Paul Funch, Wendy Good, Stephen Legge, Edward McNierney, Brad Paul, Stephen D. Prendergast, David Riggert

Members of Groton Trail Committee Absent:

Bruce Clements, Douglas Furciniti

Members of Greenway Committee in Attendance:

Chris Briggs, Bob Collins, Brad Paul, David Riggert, Marion Stoddart

Selectmen in Attendance:

Peter Cunningham, Virginia Wood

Guests:

Carolyn Perkins

- 1) This special joint meeting of the Groton Trails Committee, the Greenway Committee and Selectmen was called to order at 7:35 p.m.
- 2) The first topic of discussion was the ongoing issue of access at Jenkins road.
 - a) Brad Paul started off with a description of his discussions last week with Bob Collins, Bob Gardner (Mr. Freidrich's attorney), Mr. Freidrich and his wife. That meeting showed that two items need to be resolved.
 - i) There are disagreements about property boundaries and the possible change in the position of the river
 - ii) The Freidrichs are concerned for the safety of their children should public access be allowed on their property
 - b) Brad reported that offers to construct a fence or hedgerow (to be installed by the Trails Committee) were deemed to be unacceptable by Mr. Freidrich. The meeting ended with Brad leaving the Freidrich's with an offer to re-route the trail away from the Freidrich's house.
 - c) Ed McNierney noted that Mr. Freidrich's deed does not mention any water. Ed believes that there is good case for town ownership of Parcel I-37, although the case for public passage is less clear. Ed also asked if the town has the right to protect 1000 feet of land along the river from development. No answer was forthcoming.

- d) Stephen Prendergast suggested that the next issue should be to survey Parcel I-37. Ed McNierney suggested surveying I-37 first and attempting to document it.
 - e) Brad Paul suggested that the best strategy is to present the Freidrich's with an offer of an alternative trail around the back of their property. Bob Collins agreed to make a proposal to Mr. Freidrichs about making a trail around the back of their house. Bob said he would get back to us by the next meeting, scheduled for the third Tuesday in December.
- 3) The second topic of the evening was the new Assessor's maps. Ed McNierney agreed to look at what the new maps have to say about Parcel I-37.
 - 4) The meeting minutes for the 25 October 1999 meeting were considered next. Two spelling errors were noted on the draft copy. Steven Prendergast made a motion to accept the corrected minutes. Bob Catlin seconded the motion. The corrected minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
 - 5) Paul Funch reported on the trail race that was conducted in the Town Forest last month. There were 215 registrants and 200 runners. This was up from 125 runners in 1998, the first year it was run. The race generated proceeds of \$2,085 with about \$2,000 remaining after expenses. Paul also estimated that 200 runners is about the maximum the Town Forest can accommodate at one time.
 - 6) Brad Paul reported that if the Trails Committee would like to apply for funds for next year that a budget needs to be presented to the Finance Committee by Christmas. The Finance Committee will then tell us how to proceed. Paul Funch, Dave Riggert and Ed McNierney volunteered to form a sub-committee to come up with a budget.
 - 7) Dave Riggert reported on the Partridgeberry Woods bridge project. Dave said he would get the Conservation Commission to walk the site with him to hear their concerns about the plan. Dave mentioned that material for the bridges might require a line item in the budget.
 - 8) Bob Catlin suggested the Trails Committee invite the Town Forest Committee and the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) to a joint meeting to talk about signage in the Town Forest. Brad Paul agreed to contact the NEFF to invite them to talk with us at our December meeting. We also agreed to invite the Town Forest Committee for the January 2000 meeting.
 - 9) Rynes Road, which is part of the country stagecoach road or the old turnpike road, was the next topic. Bob Catlin reported that the property owner might move to Maine and sell the property to finance his retirement. Bob asked the members of the committee to think creatively about how this land might be preserved.

10) Stephen Prendergast made a motion to adjourn. Bob Catlin seconded the motion.
The motion to adjourn was passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at
10:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce H. Easom
Secretary

26 February 2000

Date

These minutes were approved unanimously on 21 December 1999.