

Groton Trails Committee

Minutes of Meeting

December 21, 1999

Location: Downstairs, Legion Hall

Members of Groton Trails Committee in Attendance:

Bruce Clements, Bruce Easom, Paul Funch, Wendy Good, Brad Paul, Stephen Prendergast

Members of Groton Trail Committee Absent:

Robert Catlin, Douglas Furciniti, Stephen Legge, Edward McNierney, David Riggert

Guests:

Bob Collins, Marion Stoddart

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.
- 2) Bob Collins described his conversation with Bob Gardner, Mr. Friedrichs attorney, concerning the offer to re-route the Jenkins Road trail behind Mr. Friedrich's house. Bob Gardner reported that Mr. Friedrichs declined the offer. A number of options were discussed concerning the next course of action. It was decided that resolving the status of Jenkins Road should be the next step. Steve Prendergast made a motion that:

The Trails Committee recommend to the Board of Selectman that they re-layout and accept Jenkins Road from Mill Street to Fitch's Bridge as a town way.

Wendy Good seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

- 3) Brad Paul described the need to mark crosswalks where the trails cross major roads such as Route 119 and Chicopee Row. Members of the committee identified four locations possibly needing signs to indicate trail crossings. They are:
 - a) Route 225 on the east side of bridge over the Nashua River
 - b) Route 119 where it crosses the Nashua River just before entering Pepperell
 - c) Route 119 where the power lines cross near Gay Road
 - d) Chicopee Row between the Mayfield property and Fitch's Woods.

Yellow signs showing a hiker with backpack and hiking stick was generally thought to be more practical than painting a crosswalk on these roads. Brad Paul agreed to talk with Tom Delaney about having these signs installed.

- 4) Brad Paul reported on the progress at Partridgeberry Woods. The site was walked with the Conservation Commission. They indicated that a letter of intent to construct the bridge must be sent to the State with the property owner signing off on the

project.

- 5) The projects for the first quarter of 2000 were discussed.
 - a) The January project will be to place trailhead markers in the Hawtree subdivision. Wendy Good reported that property line markers were found at the site corresponding to the ones shown on the subdivision plan. Wendy also reported that the existing trail would have to be moved about 10 feet west because beavers have flooded the valley and raised the water level. Wendy walked the site with the Conservation Commission and they requested that we talk with the abutters before installing the trailhead markers. Weather permitting, we plan to meet in the cul-de-sac on Hawtree way at noon on 2 January 1999. Bruce Easom agreed to email the committee to remind them of the date and time.
 - b) The project for February will be to go back to the Northwoods subdivision and clear the brush from the trails we marked there in the fall. The date will be determined at the January meeting. An additional task for February will be to walk the Sawtell subdivision. Bruce Easom agreed to walk it before February to familiarize himself with the layout.
- 6) Paul Funch suggested that it is time to begin to outline the Groton trails network. Since the assessor's maps are essentially completed, it will be possible to superimpose the GPS data from the trails to see on whose property they run and what links would be desirable to make a complete trail system. Bruce Easom agreed to bring a copy of the 1998 Groton Zoning Map to the January meeting so that committee members can sketch in existing trails and set priorities for mapping them.
- 7) Trail markers were discussed. The use of medallions on posts or trees was suggested similar perhaps to the medallions given to participants in the Town Forest race. It was suggested that the medallions might indicate what usage of the trails was permitted. Brad Paul agreed to ask the Conservation Commission what their policy is for hunting and other uses of the Conservation Commission administered property.
- 8) Wendy Good made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Prendergast seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce H. Easom
Secretary

26 February 2000
Date

These minutes were approved my majority vote on 18 January 2000.