

Groton Trails Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 18, 2000

Location: Downstairs, Legion Hall

Members of Groton Trails Committee in Attendance:

Bruce Easom, Paul Funch, Wendy Good, Stephen Legge, Edward McNierney, Brad Paul

Members of Groton Trail Committee Absent:

Robert Catlin, Bruce Clements, Stephen Prendergast, David Riggert

Guests:

Sue Yeager, Hélène Easom

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.
- 2) Sue Yeager of the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) gave a presentation about the mission of the New England Forestry Foundation and about some of the 112 memorial forests they manage including those here in Groton. Items mentioned include:
 - a) The forests that NEFF manages have been set up to demonstrate the use of sustainable yield forests. NEFF provides advice to property owners on how to increase their timber yields.
 - b) NEFF would like to make the public more aware of the trails on their lands and increase their public use. They would like help mapping their trails with a GPS unit. The contact person at NEFF for GPS trail mapping is the Managing Director, Mr. Charlie Thompson, who can be reached at 448-8380 x106. Sue Yeager also asked if Trails Committee members would call her before beginning any mapping activities, as she would be interested in learning about the process.
 - c) No one at NEFF is currently tasked with maintaining trails and they would welcome the Trails Committee to perform trail maintenance on their land. It is requested that Mr. Charlie Thompson be contacted for approval before beginning any trail maintenance.
 - d) Allowable land use on NEFF properties was discussed at length. Hunting is allowed on the Wharton Plantation. Hunting is also allowed on private land unless it is posted otherwise. Paul Funch asked if there was any written land use policy for their lands in Groton. Sue said she would look this up and send Paul the policies if found. Brad Paul asked what type of recreational use NEFF considered damaging. Sue indicated that they have not had any severe problems. Their biggest complaint has been with trash left in the forests.

- e) Bruce Easom asked if there was a contact person at NEFF to report vandalism or other incidents. Sue recommend that the Groton Police and/or the Massachusetts Environmental police be called. Mr. Charlie Thompson should be called as well, although he may not be able to respond at nights or on weekends.
 - f) Paul Funch asked if NEFF was interested in purchasing land. Sue said that, in general, they were not but said that she would ask Cynthia Wood and Keith Ross at NEFF.
 - g) General information and maps of NEFF properties are available at the NEFF website at <http://www.neforestry.org/>.
- 3) The next topic considered was the draft of the minutes of the 21 December 1999 meeting. The wording of the second item was changed to reflect the fact that Bob Collins had a conversation with Bob Gardner, Mr. Friedrich's attorney rather than a meeting with Mr. Friedrich himself. The numbering of the listed desired trail crossing sign locations was corrected in item 3. Also in item 3, the terms "generally thought to be" was added so that the sentence now reads, "Yellow signs showing a hiker with a backpack and hiking stick was generally thought to be more practical than painting a crosswalk on these roads." Finally, the word "vote" was added to the last sentence of item 8 so that it now reads, "The motion was passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM." Paul Funch made a motion to accept the minutes of the 21 December 1999 meeting as amended. Stephen Legge seconded the motion. All members of the committee voted to approve the minutes except for Ed McNierney who abstained because he had not attended the December meeting.
- 4) The next item to be considered was the situation on Jenkins Road. The Trails Committee had intended to make this meeting a joint meeting with the Selectmen but notice of the special joint meeting was not posted the required 48 hours in advance so the special joint meeting will be postponed. Ed McNierney suggested asking Town Council to investigate the issue of laying out Jenkins Road as a footpath rather than a public way.
- 5) The next topic was the Trans-Groton Trail System. Bruce Easom, Ed McNierney and Wendy Good brought in maps showing the town of Groton from which to begin mapping the entire trail system. Since the assessor's maps are essentially done, now is a good time to begin GPS mapping of the major cross-Groton trail links to inventory the current trails and to develop a priority list of needed links. Wendy Good agreed to take one of the maps home and sketch existing trails that need to be mapped. Wendy agreed to bring the map back to the February meeting with the trails sketched in.
- 6) Trail marker medallions were discussed next. Wendy Good presented two designs for medallions to be placed along the trails and on the trail head markers to identify trails as being part of the Groton trail system. The design marked "Groton Trails Network" was selected by the Committee to be presented as the conceptual drawing

to the medallion maker. Sue Yeager said she might have a supplier for the medallions and Wendy Good agreed to check out this and other sources.

- 7) Bruce Easom gave an update on the project to install trail markers at the Hawtree subdivision. He reported that the locations for the posts have been marked, DigSafe has been called and they have marked the underground utilities, and the abutters have been notified of our intention to install the markers. He said he is ready to dig the holes as soon as the ground thaws and the snow melts to reveal the post location markers.
- 8) Ed McNierney gave a short demonstration of the usefulness of the assessor's map on his laptop computer using ArcView.
- 9) Ed McNierney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Legge seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce H. Easom
Secretary

26 February 2000
Date

These minutes were approved my majority vote on 15 February 2000.