

Groton Trails Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 21, 2000

Location: Lunch Room, Second Floor of Groton Town Hall

Members of Groton Trails Committee in Attendance:

Robert Catlin, Bruce Clements, Bruce Easom, Paul Funch, Wendy Good, Stephen Prendergast

Members of Groton Trails Committee Absent:

Stephen Legge, Edward McNierney, Brad Paul, David Riggert

Guests:

Steve Collette and Harlan Fitch, both of the Town Forest Committee

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.
- 2) The Town Forest Committee was invited to come to our meeting so that the two committees could better understand their overlapping interests in the Town Forest. Steve Collette (Chairman) and Harlan Fitch represented the Town Forest Committee.
 - a) The title on the Town Forest Map published by the Groton Trails Committee is a concern of Steve and Harlan because the map shows not only the Town Forest land but also a large portion of land privately owned by Barney Blood and the demarcation between them is not shown on the map. Steve and Harlan feel it is important not to give the impression that this private land is public or that the public has a right to use it. The Trails Committee agreed and stated that with the information provided by the new assessor's maps, the demarcation can be shown on future versions of the map. The Trails Committee also expressed an interest in putting up signs in the Town Forest to mark the boundaries between the Town's land and private lands. The Town Forest Committee agreed with this idea.
 - b) The Town Forest Committee stated their belief that the primary purpose of the Town Forest is to produce forestry products. A secondary purpose is for recreation. The Town Forest Committee is concerned that overuse by recreational users could damage the forest. Of particular concern is erosion that is occurring along trails, particularly those trails along steep slopes.
 - c) Steve and Harlan said that the Town Forest Committee probably would not have a problem having new trail markers placed in the forest, at least on the major trails. Steve Collette stated that he had found the survey markers that the Trails Committee put at intersections in the Town Forest to be very useful. The Trails Committee offered to prepare a plan for a loop trail to be marked in the Town Forest with the new medallions. The Trails Committee agreed to present that plan to the Town Forest Committee for their approval. Bruce Easom asked if, in the

process of placing new markers, the Town Forest Committee would like to have other existing trail markers removed. Steve Collette indicated that the Town Forest Committee would probably be interested in having the old markers removed.

- 3) The minutes of the 21 September 1999 meeting were discussed next. Due to an oversight in preparation for the 1999 Fall Town Meeting, these minutes were never voted upon and officially approved. Bruce Easom passed out the draft of the minutes. Wendy Good moved to accept the minutes. Stephen Prendergast seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
- 4) The minutes from the 15 February 2000 meeting were discussed. Some typographical errors were noted. Bob Catlin moved to accept the amended minutes. Wendy Good seconded the motion. The motion was approved with all Trails Committee members voting in favor except Stephen Prendergast who abstained because he did not attend the 15 February meeting.
- 5) Wendy Good showed examples of the trail medallions like the ones to be used to mark Groton trails. Wendy said they would be available in 1 to 2 weeks. Wendy said she will meet with the Groton Conservation Trust to ask them if they would be willing to have these medallions mark trails on their lands. Paul Funch recommended that the Trails Committee be involved in the trail marking on Groton Conservation Trust lands to ensure consistency in how trails are marked throughout Groton. Wendy said she already had approval from the Groton Conservation Commission to use them.
- 6) Wendy Good and Paul Funch reported on the Groton Conservation Commission meeting they attended on March 14 concerning the Mayfield Property Forestry Plan. Wendy and Paul expressed their desires to the Commission that they keep the property usable for trails and recreation when coming up with a forestry plan for the property.
- 7) The potential development of the Throne Hill area was discussed next. It was noted that the status of the Old Turnpike Road was unclear and that this would have an impact on the level of development. Bob Catlin made a motion to “endorse the effort of the Town to exercise its option of first refusal under Chapter 61 on one or more of the parcels currently under purchase and sale agreement in West Groton.” Stephen Prendergast seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. Bruce Easom agreed to draft a letter to the Selectmen stating our support and to email a draft of the letter to members of the Groton Trails Committee for approval. He agreed to sign it along with Brad Paul and deliver it to the Selectmen.
- 8) The Williams Barn was discussed. Bruce Clements said that there was concern in the town that placing a historic restriction on the building might make it difficult to remove should the restoration effort fail. Wendy Good moved “to support the Williams Barn article (Article 3) of the Special Town Meeting and to state that we

[the Trails Committee] would express an interest in sponsoring the building if it became available for use as a trials center.” Stephen Prendergast seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

- 9) Bob Catlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephen Prendergast seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce H. Easom
Secretary

10 May 2000
Date

These minutes were approved as amended on 18 April 2000. All present voted in favor except Stephen Legge and Edward McNierney who abstained because they were not in attendance for the 21 March 2000 meeting.