

Groton Trails Committee
Minutes of Meeting
April 18, 2000

Location: Upstairs, Legion Hall

Members of Groton Trails Committee in Attendance:

Bruce Clements, Bruce Easom, Paul Funch, Stephen Legge, Edward McNierney, Brad Paul, Stephen Prendergast, David Riggert

Members of Groton Trails Committee Absent:

Robert Catlin, Wendy Good

Guests:

None

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.
- 2) The minutes of the 21 March 2000 meeting were approved as amended. All present voted to approve except Steve Legge and Ed McNierney who abstained because they did not attend the March 21st meeting.
- 3) The Articles for the upcoming Spring Annual Town meeting were discussed next.
 - a) Article 10, the Jenkins Road Article: This is the article sponsored by the Trails and the Greenway committees requesting funds to survey the boundaries of Parcels I-37, I-37A and I-37B. Brad Paul asked for volunteers to speak to this issue at the Town meeting. Ed McNierney agreed to bring a copy of Mr. Friedrich's deed referencing Jenkins road as one of the property's boundaries. Ed believed that the approach should be simple and straight forward – we believe there exists, and town records show, a parcel consisting of a ¼ mile of riverfront property that the town believes it owns. We desire, and Mr. Friedrich deserves, to have this issue resolved.

Steve Legge suggested that we should anticipate some questions and come prepared with answers. We should be prepared to point to our charter to justify involvement in this matter. We should be prepared to explain the basis of the \$10,000 requested in the Article and we should have in hand a copy of Mr. Friedrich's deed describing the westerly boundary as Jenkins road to show the ambiguities of the issue and why it needs to be resolved. Dave Riggert added that the Jenkins Road issue is the one most requested to be resolved by people outside the Trails Committee.

Bruce Clements asked if the Greenway Committee would speak to this issue at the Town Meeting. Brad Paul said that they would. Ed McNierney volunteered to present some maps at the meeting to further explain the issue to the voters. Dave Riggert asked if we should expect a formal deed for these parcels as a result of the survey and research funded in the Article. Ed McNierney suggested that

we should defer to the Selectmen on this. The Committee agreed.

- b) Article 21, the Fitch's Bridge restoration study Article – This Article is to fund the preliminary design study for preserving Fitch's Bridge. This is the first step in restoring the bridge for pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle traffic. The Finance Committee did not support this article because they believed it would be cheaper to tear it down. It was pointed out that it would cost about \$75,000 to \$80,000 to tear it down but there was no funding source to help share the demolition cost. There may, however, be funding available for restoration but not for the preliminary design study.

Brad Paul reported that this bridge is one of only three like it left in the State of Massachusetts. The question to the voters is "is this bridge worth saving?" Dave Riggert said that one of the most expensive aspects of demolition is protecting the river from debris. Ed McNierney pointed out that there is no other safe pedestrian or equestrian crossing over the Nashua River.

- 4) The project to install trailhead markers at the Hawtree subdivision was rescheduled for Sunday May 7th.
- 5) Development of the Throne was discussed at length. Bruce Clements reported that the Throne is part of the Squannassit Regional Preserve. The Throne has significance beyond just the Town of Groton. There are four parcels up for development. Three have frontage on Townsend Road and one (the Norris parcel) has frontage only on the Old Turnpike Road. Brad Paul suggested that the Build-out Plan be brought up at Town Meeting. Development of the Throne is an important part of the larger issue of the build-out of the town. Ed McNierney suggested that the Trails Committee should look for roads in town that we could take action on to discontinue thereby reducing frontage opportunities for development.
- 6) Paul Funch presented a map of the trails in the Town Forest that did not include any trails on Barney Blood's land. Ed McNierney volunteered to get a more accurate boundary between Mr. Blood's land and the Town Forest land. The trail marking medallions would be placed only on Town Forest land.
- 7) Stephen Prendergast made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Riggert seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce H. Easom
Secretary

18 June 2000
Date

These minutes were approved as amended by unanimous vote on 16 May 2000.