

Groton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2001

Location: Downstairs, Legion Hall

Members in attendance: Wendy Good, Bruce Easom, Paul Funch, Steve Legge, Ed McNierney, David Riggert

Guests: Don Torgersen, Mike Martorella (David E. Ross Associates, Inc.) and Marion Stoddart (Greenway Committee)

Jenkins Road: Mike Martorella gave a report on his research survey on Old Groton Assessor's map 1, parcel 37, Jenkins Road, the Friedrich's Property. A review of old deeds and town records has determined the road was originally a 3 rod (49.5 ft.) road. The fact that the road was discontinued in 1869, re-continued in 1870, and discontinued in 1885 complicates things. If the road is discontinued it could be that half of the road would revert to the abutters, if the land had originally been theirs. The original road layout cannot be found. This leaves 24.5 feet in contention. Also in contention is the perimeter of Friedrich's land. His distance from the road is 73 to 20 feet less than a prior deed.

Discussion followed as to the present state of the road being a public road. The town has issued many building permits using Jenkins Road, including Friedrich's, and the town paves and plows part of the road. So it may have been recontinued at some point or it may be grandfathered for public use. Completing the survey and claiming land ownership would protect the riverbank. Questions as to what is required to obtain permission to survey were also discussed.

These legal issues lead the committee to concur with Mike's March 29, 2001 letter's recommendation. The committee unanimously voted to ask town counsel to review the Jenkins Rd. suggested options. Bruce Easom will advise Ms. Jean Kitchen (Town Administrator) of our decision.

Minutes: The minutes of November and January have not been approved. We did not have a quorum in December, February, or March. Ed McNierney requested the minutes be recirculated so that they could be reviewed again before being voted on.

Trails Committee: Bob Catlin sent a letter of resignation. The committee agreed to accept his resignation. It was also decided to ask the Selectmen to appoint Don Torgersen to our committee. It was also decided that we should ask the Selectmen to designate the Trails Committee as having 11 members rather than the original 15. Ernest Cate has expressed an interest in the Trails Committee so Bruce will invite him to our meetings. Wendy suggested no one be appointed to the Trails Committee till they have attended at least two meetings.

NEFF: Bruce and Ed meet with Sue Yeager of New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) to discuss mapping. The Groton Place and Sabine Woods have been mapped. It was decided to map Kemp and Keyes Woods next. After completing these they will do Wharton Plantation.

Finances: Paul Funch reported that he has \$2,130.00 in trail race funds available for trail projects.

Trail Projects: Ed McNierney and Paul Funch will locate the places we need trail posts in the Meadowview Subdivision. Steve Legge asked for input on buying signs for the Town Forest junctions. They have approval from the Town Forest Committee for these signs. They will be aluminum with vinyl letters and numbers. Wendy Good suggested plastic as it is safer for wildlife. Steve pointed out that aluminum will last longer and resist gun shot better. Steve will get bids and put up the signs.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.