

# **Groton Trails Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **June 19, 2001**

**Members in attendance:** Paul Funch, Ed McNierney, Stephen Prendergast, Brad Paul, Bruce Clements, Bruce Easom, and Dave Riggert

**Guests:** Helene Cahen, Ed Torcolletti and Darrell Keay

**J. Harry Rich Tree Farm State Forest:** Bruce Easom introduced the goals of the Trails Committee to Ed Torcolletti and Darrell Keay, our guests from the J. Harry Rich Tree Farm State Forest. Usage reports and some documents were shown relative to the Forest. Snowmobile use is permitted, as is hunting. Hunting will not be permitted within 500 feet of the Rail Trail, by State law.

Ed showed an interesting document we may want to acquire for ourselves:  
Guidelines for Operations and Land Stewardship  
J. Harry Rich State Forest  
Publication #15759-104-100-11-88-C.R.  
March, 1988

Possible bridge-building projects for Eagle Scout candidates were discussed; we will follow up on those ideas.

The idea of trail signage was proposed; approval from the State trails coordinator would be required, but might be possible. Steve Brandenburg is the State coordinator, at 251 Causeway Street, Suite 700, Boston.

**Trails Committee Membership:** Bruce Easom reported on the current Trails Committee membership list from the Selectmen. Members wishing to be reappointed for 2001-2002 signed up on the list circulated by Bruce. Don Torgersen has delivered his interest form to the Selectmen. Brad Paul moved that we recommend to the Selectmen that Don be appointed to this committee. Dave Riggert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Riggert suggested that we ask the Selectmen to resize the Trails committee to its active, appointed membership. Brad Paul moved that we recommend to the Selectmen that our membership be set at nine provided that it can be increased if more members are found. Dave Riggert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Bruce Easom abstaining.

**Town Forest Signage:** Bruce Easom reported that Steve Legge has been unable to work on the signage for the Town Forest.

**Land Acquisition Prioritization by Town:** A subcommittee of the Planning Board has been working on prioritization of land acquisition for the Town. Wendy Good has written up

guidelines for land development for this committee. Wendy and Brad Paul have been participating in this process. A draft version has been developed and should be available soon.

**Meadowview Subdivision:** Paul Funch reported on the Meadowview trail corridor. The trail corridor was easily found, but there is no trail there; it's all lawn, brush, and trees. There is, however, a trail access on the other side of the Provost property that is currently used. The various options for pursuing this trail corridor were discussed. The group will follow up with the Provosts to see if they are still interested in the proposal, after reviewing Planning Board requirements and getting a more detailed understanding of the work and expense required.

**Sawtell Subdivision:** Bruce Clements raised the issue of the Caldwell Smith (Sawtell Drive) subdivision. Mapping needs to be done on that project, too.

**Integrity Way Subdivision:** Integrity Way is clear and ready for cedar post installation at the cul-de-sac.

**High School Property Trails:** Paul Funch has mapped some of the trail network on the eskers through the Casella property between Chicopee Row and Nashua Road. We need to keep an eye on the development activity in this area (much of the area is not part of the High School project). Steve Prendergast mentioned that a site walk on the High School property is scheduled for 9 am this Saturday. The Planning Board has a public hearing on this property this Thursday at 8:30 pm.

**Northwoods Subdivision:** Paul Funch reported that the trail that goes up the hill at Northwoods is not at all clear, and needs work. Paul would like to arrange a clearing project; there should also be posts put at the driveway end.

Brad Paul moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 pm. Steve Prendergast seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.