

Groton Trails Committee



Meeting Minutes for 16 October 2001 – Draft

Location: Downstairs Legion Hall

Members in attendance: Bruce Clements, Bruce Easom, Wendy Good, Paul Funch, Brad Paul and Stephen Legge

Members absent: Edward McNierney, Stephen Prendergast and Don Torgersen

Guests: Hélène Cahen

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The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm

September 2001 Meeting Minutes: Wendy Good moved to approve the September 2001 meeting minutes. Brad Paul seconded the motion. The motion was carried by majority vote. All voted in favor of the motion except for Bruce Easom who abstained.

Bruce Easom Offers Resignation: The chairman, Bruce Easom, offer the committee his resignation as chairman citing his inability to be present in Groton for much of November and December. The committee did not accept the resignation offer so Bruce Easom will remain on as chairman.

Town Web Site: Last week it was brought to the chairman's attention that the town's web site indicated that there was an unfilled vacancy on the trails committee. The chairman called town hall to have the information corrected. The committee has 9 members and all are currently filled.

Groton Agricultural Parade: The Groton Agricultural Parade was discussed. Although the Trails Committee did not sell and Town Forest maps, the parade did help bring some awareness to town residents of the trails in town and the work of this committee.

Groton Trail Race: Paul Funch reminded the Committee that this year's Groton Trail Race would be held on Sunday 28 October 2001, rain or shine. Paul reminded the Committee members of there responsibilities and reviewed the day's events.

Trails at Drumlin Hill Road: Paul Funch reported that the first trail at Drumlin Hill Road is now marked and cleared. Paul also reported that the Conservation Commission has approved the trail modification at Hawtree Way as well as on Northwoods Drive and McLean's Woods. Ed McNierney reported that more posts were needed to mark the trail in Skyfields II. Bruce Clements volunteered to obtain the subdivision plans for the Groton Hills subdivision on Wiley Road as well as for Integrity Way. Wend Good

volunteered to look at the trail access of Painted Post Road. Brad Paul volunteered to continue to research options for Jenkins Road and Fitch's Bridge.

Indian Hill Property: Brad Paul moved to have the Trails Committee write a letter to the Conservation Commission strongly recommending that the Conservation Commission purchase the Hurd land on Indian Hill as this land is a valuable addition to the town-owned lands, as it will help connect trails on Bates Conservation land to trails on the Weiweil Conservation Area. Bruce Clements seconded the motion and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Williams Barn: Bruce Clements reported on the progress of the Williams Barn. Generous donations of materials and time allowed the restoration of the barn to move ahead. Bruce Clements invited members to stop by and look at the work already completed.

Jenkins Road: Brad Paul reported in the status of our work to open the trail on Jenkins Road. Brad recommended that Town Council review our options for proceeding in Land Court. Brad also recommended that Town Council prepare an estimate of what it would cost to pursue this case in Land Court. Brad Paul also reported that it would require about \$350,000 to bring Fitch's Bridge to standards required for horse and pedestrian traffic.

Rail Trail: Brad Paul reported that the equestrian portion of the Rail Trail is "way too loose and too soft" to be used for horses. Wendy Good volunteered to call Dan O'Brien to see if this surface can be improved.

Adjourn: Paul Funch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brad Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

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