

Groton Trails Committee



Meeting Minutes for 19 March 2002 – Draft

Location: Downstairs Legion Hall

Members in attendance: Bruce Easom, Paul Funch, Steve Legge, Brad Paul, Don Torgersen

Guests: Helene Cahen, Stephanie Janis

DRAFT

Opening: Bruce Easom called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the 19 February 2002 meeting minutes. The motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 1 abstention (Steve Legge).

Reports on Current Projects:

Town Forest: Bruce E. reported that Steve Legge has finished preparing the Town Forest intersection markers. Steve also received permission from the Town Forest Committee to replace the old markers with the new ones. Paul Funch briefly described the letter and numbering scheme adopted with the new markers. Sections of the Town Forest were assigned a letter. Intersections along the main trail or loop in each section were numbered consecutively and then the “remaining” intersections were assigned higher numbers.

Painted Post: It was reported that Wendy Good had discussed with Michelle Collette the Painted Post access to Conservation Land next to 45 Painted Post Rd. Bruce showed the Committee the as-built plans he had obtained and he pointed out the property bounds he had been able to locate thus far. Bruce said that he would ask the Conservation Commission for permission to mark the entrance with posts at their 26 February meeting. A connection between Painted Post and Duck Pond was also discussed and was felt to be of high priority, though no one present was familiar with the existing trails in that area and whether they were entirely on public land. GPS work needs to be done to establish the location of the trail network in that area.

Jenkins Road: Brad Paul presented an update on the investigation into what rights the Town of Groton has to land between the Nashua River and Jenkins Rd. in front of Al Friedrich’s property. The Selectmen approved the further expenditure of funds appropriated by Town Meeting to have Town Counsel investigate the Town’s prescriptive rights to the use of Jenkins Rd. Brad met with Jean Kitchen to go over the facts that needed to be presented to Town Counsel. Brad noted that the Senior Volunteers in Town Hall had finished their research of Town Meeting minutes and they found no definitive information regarding the status of Jenkins Rd. They did identify a lot of development activity along Jenkins Rd. up to the Fairgrounds in recent years.

Gratuity Way/Marsh Parcel: Brad Paul pushed for some urgency in putting a bridge over Gratuity Brook in the trail easement that was included in the site plan. The Committee concurred with the need to begin the trail work as soon as possible so that use of the easement can be clearly established. The Committee discussed pros and cons of using Groton Electric Light poles, pressure-treated lumber, and Douglas Fir (which Brad has some contacts for). Bruce C. volunteered to check whether the easement had been properly recorded and Bruce E. will present the bridge proposal to the Conservation Commission at their 26 February meeting to ask for their recommendation regarding the type of wood to be used and for their approval of the structure itself.

Squannassit and Petapawag Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs): Bruce presented the Committee with a letter he drafted for the Committee to express its support of the ACECs to Secretary Robert Durand of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. It was moved and seconded to approve sending the letter, with some modifications, to Secretary Durand. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

DRAFT