

# Groton Trails Committee



Meeting Minutes for 18 June 2002

Location: Downstairs in Legion Hall

Members in attendance: Bruce Clements, Bruce Easom, Paul Funch, Wendy Good, Brad Paul and Don Torgersen

Members absent: Edward McNierney, Stephen Legge and Stephen Prendergast

Guests: H el ene Cahen

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm.

**May Meeting Minutes:** The draft of the meeting minutes from May 2002 was reviewed. A few errors were corrected. Wendy Good moved to approve the modified minutes. Brad Paul seconded the motion. All voted in favor except for Bruce Clements and Paul Funch who abstained.

**Trails Committee Focus:** Paul Funch recommended that the focus of the Trails Committee should be on action items. Paul recommended a new procedure be implemented where a person is responsible for each action item. Paul presented a sample list of action items.

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** Paul Funch requested that the Secretary review the past meeting minutes take an inventory to make sure the Committee has a copy of each one. Paul volunteered to communicate to Ed McNierney the need for checking that our records for past minutes are complete and up to date.

**Bridge over Gratuity Brook:** Brad Paul took ownership of this action item. Bruce Clements reported that the trail easement had not yet been recorded on the deed.

**Trails on High School Site:** Paul Funch took ownership of this action item. Paul reported that we need a site walk at the high school site.

**NEFF – Gleason Trailhead:** Wendy took ownership of this action item. The trail was apparently obliterated when the road was blasted out. The trail needs to be re-routed to avoid the steep drop off onto the roadway.

**Sawtell Drive:** Don Torgersen agreed to take ownership of this action item. The title to the conservation land behind Sawtell has apparently not yet been transferred to the town. Don agreed to check into the status of this parcel and find out when it might be transferred.

**Groton Conservation Land:** Wendy took ownership of this action item. Wendy reported that she dropped off two posts for marking trails on the new Groton Conservation Land but that they had not been installed yet. Bruce Clements reported that the town does now own the land. Apparently an existing trail crosses over to the Hurd's private land. Paul Funch agreed to map the trail with the GPS and send the data to Ed McNierney for plotting. The committee will decide later whether or not to recommend that the trail be moved so that it remains completely on town-owned land.

**Brown Lane:** Paul Funch took ownership of this action item. Paul agreed to prepare a letter to Ms. Marjorie Cox proposing that she allow a trail over a corner of her property.

**Highway Department and Conservation Commission Interface:** Brad Paul took ownership of this action item. The goal is to find areas of common interest between the Trails Committee, the Highway Department and the Conservation Commission.

**Meadowview Trails:** Wendy took ownership of this action item. The goal is to produce a trail plan for this area to include a trail from the back of the Meadowview property to McDonald's farm.

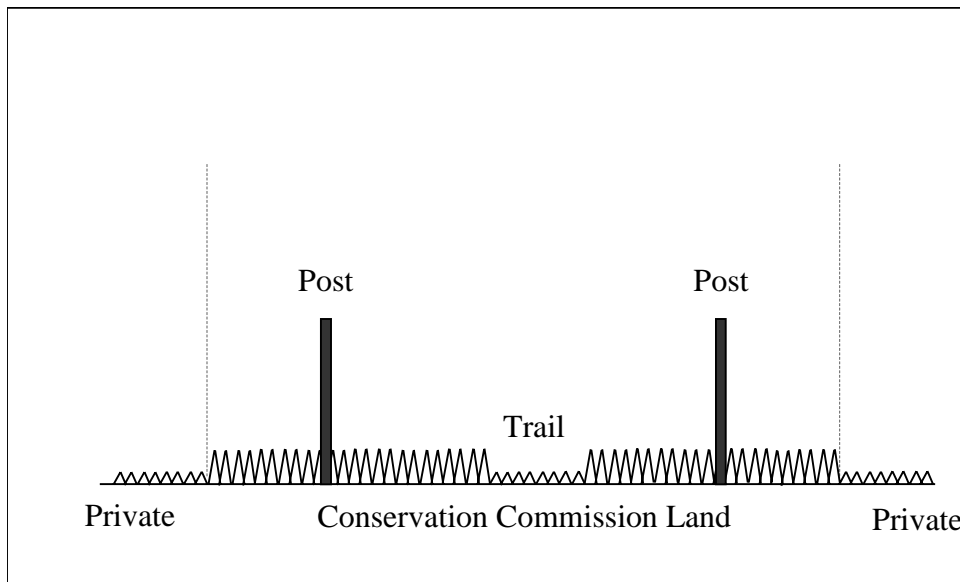
**Default Allowable Usage Policy:** Paul took ownership of this action item. The goal is to see if the Conservation Commission will disallow hunting and motorized vehicles on Conservation Commission controlled parcels unless there is a specific exception made for the parcel.

**Trail Stewards:** Trail stewards are people in the local neighborhoods who use the local trails and look after them. The goal is to establish a list of trail stewards with the ability to call the Trails Committee or Conservation Commission if trail maintenance issues arise. It was pointed out that this might be a redundant duty of the existing Conservation Commission stewards.

### **Status Reports:**

**Longley II:** Paul Funch reported that a site walk was done at Longley II to look at the railing along the rail trail that block access to trails going to Longley II. A person from Natural Heritage will walk the site and report back to the Conservation Commission.

**Wiewel:** Bruce Clements reported that the trail off Skyfields is there but it is intimidating to use as one has to walk along on mowed lawn. There are a number of issues that the Conservation Commission needs to address concerning this trail. The committee agreed that the Trails Committee should ask the Conservation Commission to request that the abutters not mow the trail parcel. The Trails Committee does not think a trail should be a mowed piece of land. Rather, it needs to be distinguished for adjacent lawns. The trail needs to be distinguishable within the Conservation Commission parcel.



Bruce Easom agreed to attend the next Conservation Commission meeting and make the request. Bruce Clements moved “that the Trails Committee recommend that the Conservation Commission adopt the following policy; Conservation Commission land should be distinguishable from manicured lawns. This policy would keep Conservation Commission lands and trail right-of-ways distinguishable from private lawns.” Wendy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Hawtree:** Paul Funch reported that we still need manpower to finish up the trail

**McLain’s Woods:** Paul reported that we need a Request for Determination (RFD) form to build a bridge over some wetlands

**Kailey’s Way:** Wendy reported that this project is almost complete.

**Flavell Crossing:** Bruce Clements reported that the trailhead markers the Trails Committee planted were indeed in their proper locations. One abutter apparently though they were on private property.

**New Projects:** Wendy reported that proposals for DEM’s Recreational Trails Grants Programs are due on 26 July 2002. The contact person at DEM is Peter Braudenburg at (617) 626-1453.

**Adjourn:** Brad Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Torgersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

These meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote on 16 July 2002. There were two abstentions.

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Ed McNierney  
Secretary  
Groton Trails Committee