

# Groton Trails Committee



Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2003– Draft

Location: Downstairs in Legion Hall

Members in attendance: Paul Funch, Don Torgersen, Steve Legge, Vic Burton, Wendy Good, Brad Paul, Bruce Clements and Bruce Easom.

Members absent: Ed McNierney

Guests: H el ene Cahen

**DRAFT**

Chairman Funch opened the meeting at 7:40 PM  
Torgersen volunteered to take minutes in McNierney's absence.  
August 2003 meeting minutes reviewed and accepted.

- Burton reviewed the Cunningham property culvert. The culvert cannot be built because the Cunningham land is in the flood plain of the Nashua River. The stream bed cannot be filled in to build the culvert. If we could fill in the stream bed the same volume (130 cubic yards) would have to be dug up somewhere else within the streambed. This is not feasible due to Con Com concerns.

It looks as though a wooden bridge will have to be built.

- Easom tried to review parcel plans for Partridgeberry. He was unable to get a copy of the plans due to their poor condition. It was also determined that there is a neighborhood association that is involved with possible ownership of some of this land along with Taisey. Trails still need to be marked but only with owner Taisey's permission, which cannot be unreasonably withheld. It was suggested that the home owners association be involved in the trail marking proposal.

Easom will work to get parcel plans and to do further follow up.

- Good, Burton, Funch, and Legge reported on Gleason Connector and Sorhaug Woods. Trail clearing and bridgework was done. These projects were assisted with roughly 30 youth from Groton School's public service student orientation project. These many hands made for great help even if many had little experience in the woods.

- Funch and Legge reported that the Rail trail fence opening seems to have all concerned in agreement that there can be an opening. Funch will talk to Barbara Ganem to follow up on the scheduled site walk next week.

- September 20 is Grotonfest and we will have a table. Two tables will be needed, 1 from Torgersen, and 1 from Funch or Easom. Members will man table in 2 people per 1-hour shift from 7:30 to 5. We will sell trail maps for \$1.00 a piece. (Town Forest,

McClain/Fitch Woods, Groton Woods, Williams Barn/Sorhaug, Hawtree). 50-100 copies of each will be made.

- Funch reported on status of the Groton Town Forest Trails Race being held October 26. Lining up space, sponsors, mailings, registration, awards, race day trail marking, and coordination of race day volunteers is continuing on schedule. Volunteers are still needed 9:00 to 5:00 on October 26.

- Site walks tentatively set for October 4 at 8:00 AM. Trails scheduled include Kailey's Way, Johnston, Meadow Brook (look into homeowner encroachment on trail), Northwoods, and Crosswinds.

- Funch reported that the Groton Dunstable High School Cross Country Trail on school land was finished on Sunday, September 7. The following Wednesday, the course had its first race. Just luck and Funch's leadership finished the new two-mile cross-country trail on high school land in time. The Athletic Director and the Coach of Groton Dunstable High School XC Team have been notified that the longer 3-mile loop course (not the trail that the Trails Comm. made) is on Private Property (Cassella Family). Funch has strongly recommended that the school contact the owner to obtain permission for its use and upkeep.

- Upcoming potential trail work. Pacer Way; Bayard Underwood, the property manager of the old Squannacook Sportsmens Club, has asked the Trails Committee to build a trail, but Underwood is not sure if he will give a public easement to the trail. Without public access, the Trails Committee cannot give this project any priority.

- Trail making hands-on training and discussion will be held on Sept 27<sup>th</sup> in Holden MA. Ted Bonner will be the trail building guru.

- Gibbet Hill open house is Monday Sept.22 10:30 am

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- Clements reported The Academy Hill 117 home development has been blocked by the Natural Heritage Foundation. They are suggesting a 28 home maximum for the land.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.