

# Groton Trails Committee



Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2003– Draft

Location: Downstairs in Legion Hall

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

Members absent: Bruce Clements

**DRAFT**

Legion Hall

Taisey is misspelled in the October meeting minutes. With that correction, Good moved to accept the minutes of the October 2003 meeting. Easom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Burton reminded McNierney that he is still expecting the updated digital map of the northern Indian Hill area.

McNierney and Paul reported on the Town Meeting votes relative to the Jenkins Road issue, recovering the history of the area. The most recent recommendations from Ross Associates include survey work to clarify the distances recited to the road, and the legal work done to trace the deeds for these properties. Ross Associates' report points out several discrepancies in the deeds in the area and recommends further research and survey work to clarify these discrepancies. McNierney pointed out that the Town Clerk indicates a record of a Town Meeting vote in April 1935 that may possibly be relevant to this issue.

Paul moved that the Trails Committee recommend to the Selectmen that deed and survey work be done to research and locate the entire northwestern boundary of the Farmers and Mechanics Club site, to research the chain of title on both sides of this boundary back to 1850 to determine the appropriate length of this boundary, and to investigate the April, 1935 Town Meeting vote accepting a road between Mill Street and Pepperell Road. Easom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

To implement this recommendation, we need to investigate the April 1935 Town Meeting vote to locate the road mentioned in the vote (McNierney will do this), and to get the deed information developed by Ross Associates in the earlier research (Paul will do this), and to write to the Selectmen to communicate our plans (McNierney will draft for Funch's signature). Paul and Clements will be working to get quotes from Ross Associates and Dillis and Mische for the surveying of the entire northwestern boundary of the Farmers and Mechanics Club site, and for locating the exact position of the current granite monument near Jenkins Road. All survey work will require the surveyors to work

on Town of Groton property unless permission is obtained from other landowners (the Friedrichs have already declined to grant such permission).

Funch reported on the annual Town Forest Trail Race, and distributed a summary of the year's expenses and the current year's race income and expenses. Starting balance for the year, after last year's race, was \$5,028.97, and the current balance after this year's race is \$5,861.11. Attendance has been pretty stable at between 200 - 250 runners for the last few years, making this one of the largest trail races in New England.

McNierney will bring his Trails Committee town maps to the next meeting for review; Easom volunteered to have them laminated.

Funch reported that the Sawtell Drive bond has been released, and the property is moving toward town ownership.

Easom reported that the Conservation Commission had some concern about telephone poles being used in the wetland area for the bridge at the Cunningham property. Fletcher Granite can provide 5" x 5" granite for \$5 per linear foot; Tom Delaney has some smaller broken pieces that could serve as foundations. Burton reported that we've pretty much run out of time to do work on the bridge until spring, so he will work on the Notice of Intent filing and other procedural issues. Torgersen and Burton flagged the trail within the 50' easement corridor. Burton would like to know whether we need to contact the Conservation Commission and/or Cunningham (the owner) before doing any work. There was general consensus that the Conservation Commission does not need to be further notified, but that we should notify Cunningham before doing further work. Trail entrance posts and perhaps one or two more to mark the way are needed, along with the standard trail medallions. There will be a trail work trip on Sunday the 30th from 1:00 to 4:00; there will be an effort on Friday the 28th at 9:00 to install the posts, and Easom will contact DigSafe for clearance.

Burton and Easom walked the trail corridors at Partridgeberry Woods. The "existing" trails as shown on the subdivision plan are generally in place and in good shape. There are some notations on the subdivision plan where trails that cut across corners of lots need to be relocated. Some of these have been blocked by brush, and have not yet been relocated properly. Easom discussed the subdivision history with Michelle Colette. The original development had a difficult start, and there were several parcels that were to eventually go to various conservation organizations. Because the Taisey family did not make much money on the subdivision they tried to sell these properties - there were no takers. The properties currently are owned by Robert M. Hicks, the developer. The parcel along the river is still owned by the Taisey Family Nominee Trust, while the remaining parcels are owned by Hicks. There was interest in clearing up and doing trail work on the Taisey parcel in the short term. Easom will continue to develop and implement the work plan on the Taisey parcel.

Legge reported on the Johnston property on Maple Avenue connecting the old Boston and Maine Railroad line to the Groton Conservation Trust Hayes Woods property. Legge has flagged two trails on this property, and welcomes any review from the committee.

**DRAFT**

Legge will contact the Conservation Commission and arrange a site walk; he has also contacted the Shattucks, who own abutting property, to review the location.

Paul will be walking the Crosswinds trail corridors at 9:00 this Friday - meet at Paul's house at 9:00 to carpool over to the site.

Burton moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 PM. Paul seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**DRAFT**