

# Groton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes for June, 15, 2004– Draft

Location: Downstairs in Legion Hall

**DRAFT**



Members in attendance: Paul Funch, Ed McNierney, Vic Burton, Bruce Clements, Wendy Good, and Bruce Easom.

Members absent: Brad Paul, Steve Legge, and Don Torgersen

Ken Jeffries was visiting the meeting to learn more about the Trails Committee.

In the May minutes, Simon Beebe is the abutter to Gro-Lex – include Legge's corrections.

Good moved we approve the April and May minutes as written with those corrections. Burton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Clements announced that he will not be seeking reappointment to the Trails Committee. Don Torgersen has previously mentioned he will not be seeking reappointment, so we are all encouraged to look for and communicate with potential new members.

McNierney will begin drafting an outline of the Jenkins Road report, and will circulate the outline for comments and to get other members volunteer to contribute to the effort. We will aim to have a first draft together for the July meeting to review.

Burton reported on the Tuity Brook bridge, which is now nearly complete after the last work trip. A little carpentry work, some fill, and a few odds and ends remain. McNierney reported that the trail between the bridge and the Fairgrounds needs a bit of cleanup to remove 1" stumps along it.

Funch reported on the review work he and McNierney did at the end of Saddle Lane, locating the entrance to the Conservation Commission parcel. He and McNierney will mark the entrance location and review the trail plans with the Conservation Commission.

Funch has corresponded with Ed Torcoletti of Mass. DCR concerning the trail opening to the Rail Trail from Drumlin Hill Road. Torcoletti reports that the work should be complete in the next 10 days or so.

Burton reported that the Groton Cemetery Association met last night to review the proposed trail at the cemetery. There was considerable discussion and disagreement among the Association members concerning the route and design of the trail. Burton believes that we should continue to proceed to educate the Cemetery proprietors on the design, layout, and purpose of the trail.

McNierney will check on the layout of Chicopee Row as it runs south from Williams Barn.

Funch and Burton had a site walk at the Deerhaven subdivision on Saturday afternoon, and met with two abutters and Ben Black, who provided useful assistance. The most difficult access is the narrow strip running west from Fawn Terrace Lane; there is currently a fence on one side, and a second fence would make it very easy to find the corridor. There are a few encroachments on the Conservation Commission property that need to be addressed at some point in the future.

This weekend's work trip is cleanup at the High School trails as previously announced; some chainsaw work is also required to clear some blowdowns. The next project will probably be in July at Williams Barn to do some cleanup.

Next month we will have a discussion concerning our policy on text directional signage to be installed along trails.

Email reports were received reporting the need for better trail markers on the new Crosswinds trail and the Hidden Valley Road trail running towards Batten Woods.

Funch reminded the group that future Conservation Commission projects include Longley II, the Northwoods pond trail, and the new Williams Barn conservation trails.

McNierney will speak to Steve Webber to get the Gibbet Hill trail down to Shattuck Street back on active status.

Easom reported that there's a July 1 meeting for the Community Preservation Act support committee, and reported that the Squannacook River Rail Trail is moving forward in Groton and Townsend.

Legge is working on an article describing the Trails Committee for the 350th Anniversary Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

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