

Groton Trails Committee



Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2004– Draft

Location: Downstairs in Legion Hall

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

Members absent: Brad Paul, Steve Legge, and Mike Andersen

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Funch reported on the status of current trail work projects:

1. High School XC Course - it's in use but still needs a bit more marking with posts. The impending installation of a maintenance building will impact the existing trail path; the posts marking that entrance have been removed and will need to be reinstalled in the new trail location.
2. Still Meadow/Wattles Pond - New trail installation connecting trails from Northwoods over to Wattles Pond. A small, temporary "bridge" has been placed over the stream (Meadow Brook) and committee members are invited to look at it for comment/input on how well this sort of solution works. There was a general suggestion that we should inspect/review the trail and bridge for feedback. Preiss will organize a site walk and review with the Conservation Commission by contacting Barbara Ganem; he will ask for assistance if he needs it.
3. Williams Barn Open House - Funch and Easom managed this event for the Trails Committee, with generally positive response on a nice day.
4. Deer Haven - The Conservation Commission had a site walk along the trail corridor on Theresa Roberts' property boundary. Evan Owen and Easom will examine the sightlines on the property after the leaves are down. The other trail on the eastern side of the development needs some brushing and cleanup, and Funch has not yet been able to meet with the Dumonts concerning the possible installation of a fence along their easement boundary. One of the trail entrance posts at each of the two entrances (Route 40 and Deerfield Drive) needs to be moved to make it wider for emergency vehicle access. Barbara Ganem will be writing letters from the Conservation Commission to the residents encroaching on the trail corridor.

Funch pointed out that the Overlook Drive access to the trails along Wattles Pond is still blocked and needs resolution.

McNierney has reindexed the Jenkins Road deed research done by himself and Easom, and will be meeting with Maria Casey this week to review the Selectmen's correspondence on the matter.

Burton reported that the Conservation Commission will be holding a meeting at the Batten Woods subdivision (Orion Way) this Saturday (October 23) to make decisions on parking, trail corridors, and signage.

Wallace Road has a trail easement running between the road and the abandoned railway, across one of the lots in the development. Easom is working on marking and clearing the corridor over this easement.

Funch is reporting nearly 100 preregistrations for the Town Forest Trail Races, an excellent rate. He has also been selling T-shirts to registrants through the Web site. Volunteers are still needed for all aspects of the event on Sunday, October 31 - please contact Funch for information.

Kris Corwin is coordinating the Conservation Commission's effort to tabulate the permitted and prohibited activities on town-owned properties.

Preiss presented information on trail information kiosks that he enjoyed when living in Acton. These were effective tools for presenting information about the trail, the history of the area, etc. and he would like to see us consider similar kiosks where appropriate on our trails. Some of our trail entrances could use small informational signs with maps, etc. to better guide and inform users.

McNierney reminded the committee that he will bring sample trail signs/markers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

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