

Groton Trails Committee



Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2004– Draft

Location: Downstairs in Legion Hall

Members in attendance: Vic Burton, Steve Legge, Wendy Good, Mike Andersen, Bruce Easom, Brad Paul, and Joachim Preiss

Members absent: Paul Funch, Ed McNierney

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Visitors: Helene Cahen

Minutes from the last two meetings were not available.

Legge presented a memo from 1998 setting forth Trails Committee objectives and a discussion followed as to the extent that those objectives had been met. The need for a long term plan for a Groton trail network making key connections between major conservation properties was suggested.

A year end summary of Committee activities will be prepared by Legge as a news release. Committee members were encouraged to provide input for the write-up. At the same time Legge will prepare the summary for the Town Annual Report.

It was noted that Funch had provided an excellent report on the Town Forest Trails Races and there were no further comments. All agreed that Funch did an outstanding job.

Burton reported on the on-site ConCom meeting held at Orion Way (Batten Woods). Neighbors were invited to attend to discuss the location and maintenance of a trail from the cul-de-sac to the woods. The trail is to be located on Town land (already in lawn) between two houses. A compromise was reached in that the developer has agreed to remove a four foot wide strip of sod for the length of the trail and fill it with bark mulch. Abutters will be allowed to mow up to the trail. The "Batten Woods" ConCom sign will be located on land owned by an abutter.

Burton noted that the ConCom will be holding another on-site meeting at 77 Hidden Valley Road at 9 AM on Saturday, November 20, in an effort to resolve another situation wherein the abutter is mowing a lawn established on Town property. Committee members were encouraged to attend.

Paul reported that the Fitch's Bridge Committee had decided to create a report summarizing the work done to date on the restoration of the bridge which would include earlier engineering reports, new estimates and a discussion of funding sources. The report is to be completed by January 15, 2005.

With respect to the Wallace Road easement, Easom will talk to the Shays re location of trail posts.

Burton reported that he helped Funch install four trail posts on the High School cross country track last weekend.

McNierney had prepared a well documented e-mail report on Still Meadow which all in attendance had read. A discussion followed as to what was permitted or not permitted in terms of a trail in the area. After considerable review, it was determined that we would contact McNierney with the intention of flagging a new trail along the edge of the meadow, across the farm bridge and down the edge of the other meadow. The flagged trail would then be presented to GCT for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

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