



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
(978) 448-1111
FAX: (978) 448-1115



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ** DRAFT**
18 January 2005
Town Hall

Attendees:

Joachim Preiss
Paul Funch
Stephen Legge
Bruce Easom
Wendy Good
Ed McNierney
Mike Andersen
Vic Burton
Brad Paul

Visitors:

Helene Cahen

DRAFT

1. Easom moved to accept the November meeting minutes as written. Andersen seconded the motion. The motion carried without objection, McNierney and Funch abstaining.
2. McNierney will review and distribute meeting minutes from 2004. Burton has not seen the September minutes. The September and October meeting minutes will be reviewed at the February meeting.
3. Burton reported on the Conservation Commission meeting at 77 Hidden Valley Road abutting the Conservation Commission's trail corridor. The abutter may mow the grass there not less than 4 inches tall; we'll see what happens in the spring when the grass begins to grow again.
4. Burton checked in on the Orion Way trail corridor and met the contractor and the abutting property owner. The trail corridor is to be covered with bark mulch, and Burton reminded the owner of that.
5. McNierney will circulate the Groton Conservation Trust's new trail construction guidelines to the group. In the spring we can review the trail route and determine where and what sort of signage/markers are appropriate for the new Still Meadow trail. The GCT approved the construction of a trail along the northwestern edge of the Still Meadow field.
6. Burton and Andersen met with Peter Morrison and Cynthia Henshaw of NEFF to prepare and review GPS maps of the NEFF Wharton Plantation and neighboring properties. About 4 miles of trails were mapped. NEFF reports that there is some motorized vehicle usage, but it's not much of a problem. There would be one parking area on the east side of Old Dunstable Road for the trail network. There is some rough brush clearing required at that area to open up the trail access. There was some discussion of the goals for this trail network and the degree of involvement the Trails Committee should have with trails on NEFF property. Burton and Andersen will continue the relationship with Ms. Henshaw and report on further development.
7. Legge has a draft of our annual Trails Committee report to go in the annual Town Report. He will circulate his draft via email, and needs comments quickly to meet the deadline. Several suggestions were offered at the meeting.
8. Easom reported that four posts have been installed on Wallace Road; two had to be cut down shorter than usual due to ledge. Legge pointed out that the railroad right of way is quite brushy and needs clearing - this might be an appropriate winter project.
9. Paul reported on the Fitch's Bridge subcommittee of the Greenway Committee. At their latest meeting they discussed applying for Community Preservation Act funds; such funding would be available no earlier than the fall of 2006 and about \$80,000 might be available. Current estimated

- costs are around \$450,000. The committee is considering a Town Meeting article to place an
10. Historic Preservation Restriction on the bridge itself, and Paul is interested in getting Trails Committee co-sponsorship or support for such an article. He will provide more information to the committee to respond to the various questions raised.
 11. Easom moved that the committee write to the Selectmen supporting a warrant article recommending the restoration of Fitch's Bridge to form a pedestrian and equestrian crossing of the Nashua River. There was no second. Easom will report on the cost of tearing down the bridge, the estimate for restoration cost, and the language of the historic preservation restriction to be proposed.
 12. McNierney raised concerns about the lack of a Management Plan for the Gibbet Hill and Angus Hill properties, and he will meet with the Conservation Commission to address the issue.
 13. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

DRAFT