



TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****
15 February 2005
Town Hall

Attendees:

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

Visitors:

1. Burton moved, Preiss seconded, that we approve the minutes of September 21, 2004 noting that they may not be complete. Motion passed with Good abstaining.
2. Good moved, Preiss seconded, that we approve the minutes of October 19, 2004. Motion passed with Legge abstaining.
3. Legge moved, Good seconded, that we approve the minutes of January 18, 2005. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Burton explained that he had received an estimate for a new truss bridge over the Nashua River that would serve non-motorized traffic. The bridge, 6' wide and 120' long, would be delivered in two completely finished sections, each 60' long, for \$85,000. Installation would require two large cranes which could suspend the sections over the river while being joined. A discussion followed on the Ten Year Preservation Restriction that the Fitch's Bridge Committee plans to submit to the Selectmen. The consensus of the Trails Committee was that supporting the Preservation Restriction would limit our options if we elected to install a new bridge at the Fitch's Bridge site. We then drafted the outline of a future letter to the Selectmen as follows; "We strongly support plans for providing a crossing of the Nashua River for non-motorized traffic at or near the site of Fitch's Bridge in the near future."
5. Funch presented an update on the results of the Town Forest Trail Races, which were highly successful.
6. The compilation of a booklet for our trails maps was discussed with the suggestion that a description of each property be included. Since we have several owners of conservation lands in Groton (i.e. NEFF, GCT, ConsCom & MA) it was agreed that it would not be practicable to try to coordinate the writings of each group, but that we might more easily proceed on our own with those properties mapped to date.
7. Longley II..... Construction of a trail on town-owned land at the south end of Saddle Lane (to connect with existing trail on the ridge) will likely require ConsCom approval. It was suggested that an "on site ConsCom meeting" might be appropriate and advantageous since many of the homeowners on Saddle Ln. and Drumlin Hill Rd are in favor of the trail and would attend the meeting in support of the project. Action on this item was left to Funch and McNierney.
8. Deerhaven still needs the survey by Easom and Evan Owen to establish the location of the trail next to an abutter. The trails in Deerhaven generally require more markers and the proposed fence next to the Dumont property still needs resolution.

Groton Trails Committee
Meeting Minutes

9. The High School trails are pretty much done. We need to think about markers on trails that the public can use as opposed to trails only used by developed for the High School. Use of yellow trail markers was suggested.
10. The Cronin property requires trail head posts at two locations where trails meet the Rail Trail and the "Cronin Conservation Area" sign which was thrown in the water needs repair or replacement.
11. Partridgeberry Woods needs marking of trails controlled by the local homeowners association. The head of the association attended a Trails meeting but nothing has been done since. It was noted that Easom and Burton did a GPS of this area and that one of Burton's next maps will include this area.
12. The proposed new trail on the railroad bed near Wallace Road needs to be cleared, preferably in the winter (due to the poison ivy). Legge volunteered to head up this project.
13. More trail markers are needed for the newly opened trail south from Squannacook Drive. A narrow footpath leads from this area to the State-owned Bertozzi Wildlife Conservation Area and directions or lack thereof are confusing. Marking of the Bertozzi parcel will require State approval.
14. Burton presented a map of the Throne trails with a "YOU ARE HERE" marker at the main intersection. It was agreed to laminate some of these maps for placing in a small protected structure at the intersection indicated. It was reported that Dann Chamberlin has approved the marking of the "loop trail", probably with yellow markers. Burton is to e-mail a map to Funch for lamination. Installation of the map will require GCT approval.
15. A trails related event for the Town's 350th was suggested. We could possibly set up a series of trail hikes that participants could take to gain "points"..... maybe in segments that would loop around Groton.
16. It was reported that a "lowland" connector between the Bates and the Hurd land has not received support due to the required crossing of a wet area.
17. A connector from the Wiewel land to Nate Nutting Road would be desirable but the area may be too wet. It was suggested that Bob Lotz and/or Bruce Clements might take on the project but it was noted that they would need GPS support.
18. The Reedy Meadow subdivision trails in Pepperell with connections to Groton trails has been followed closely by Gray Tuttle. Gray is taking a job in New York City. Reportedly, Gray had offered an easement across his property from Longley Rd to the Rail Trail, but this has not materialized to date.
19. Preiss observed that snowmobiles are using a large section under the power lines from Gay Rd to the Dunstable line. In some cases they are using side trails on conservation lands and are endangering other trail users. It was noted that this is a very difficult issue to control without major effort.
20. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.
21. Respectfully submitted by Vic Burton.