



# TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

**\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\* DRAFT**  
**17 May 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. Paul moved to accept the April meeting minutes as amended and circulated by Funch. Good seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with McNierney abstaining.
2. Funch presented the current submittal to the Planning Board of the Amanda Way subdivision. The existing circumferential trail will be almost entirely preserved, with two access points from the subdivision cul-de-sac. A small portion of existing trail will cross one house lot and needs to be relocated for about 100 feet. These trail corridors will provide a new public connection to the Water Department Whitney Well property and the Groton Conservation Trust and Conservation Commission properties in the area. Funch distributed a letter to the Planning Board expressing the Trails Committee's support for the project as described. Easom moved to endorse the letter as written; Paul seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Funch will send the letter to the Planning Board before their meeting this Thursday, May 19.
3. Funch reported for Andersen that this Saturday's New England Forestry Foundation "Discovery Day" will feature a trail project at the Wharton Plantation. The work will begin on Old Dunstable Road at the first log landing on the right, heading north from Lowell Road.
4. Funch reported on the Scarlet Hill (Angus Hill) trail walk with Ben and Meredith Scarlet. The Scarlets have flagged the trail path and installed several stiles with maps. Preiss and others flagged a new trail connection running from the north-central end of the Scarlet Hill trail, across the Groton Conservation Trust's "Angus Acre," and paralleling Martins Pond Road across the remainder of the Scarlet property. The trailhead will come out on Martins Pond Road directly opposite the outlet of Orchard Lane. McNierney will have the Groton Conservation Trust review the flagging on the GCT parcel. Easom and Preiss will review the trail flagging with the Scarlets for implementation planning. The most pressing concern is the opening of the fences for easy pedestrian and equestrian access, either as open pathways or through the use of gates, etc.
5. McNierney will talk to Steve Webber and get the remainder of the Gibbet Hill implementation planned.
6. Paul reported on the biennial RiverFest event on June 19 at the Petapawag Boat Launch area, from 11 AM to 5 PM. There's an opportunity for the Trails Committee to have a table to increase visibility and communicate with the public. Easom is interested and may be available; Funch may be able to help a bit. Easom will work with Paul to coordinate the details of the event.
7. Easom announced that the Community Preservation Committee has released a draft of their first Community Preservation Plan. This Plan describes the process for managing Community Preservation-funded projects; it is available at [grotoncpa.org](http://grotoncpa.org) or through the Town Web site. Easom

- expects the first projects can be funded after approval by the Fall 2005 Town Meeting.
8. Paul reported that the last Fitch's Bridge committee meeting was overwhelmingly in favor of restoring the bridge rather than demolishing it. The state has a "buy out" program that provides funds equivalent to demolition costs, which the Town can use for either demolition or for restoration or other projects.
  9. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

***DRAFT***