



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **17 October 2005** **Town Hall**

Attendees:

Joachim Preiss
Paul Funch
Stephen Legge
Bruce Eason
Wendy Good
Ed McNierney
Vic Burton
Chris Shaffer
Vacant

Visitors:

Jim Wrightson, NEMBA
Ed Bretschneider
Randy Pfenninger
Nathan Pfenninger

Mr. Wrightson, Wachusett NEMBA President, came with a gift of 3 Pulaskis and 3 MacLeods trail maintenance equipment for the Groton Trails Committee from the Wachusett NEMBA chapter. We photographed the group with the tools on display.

With the correction that Steve Legge did not volunteer at the meeting to follow up on Acorn Path (Vic Burton agreed to do so later, after the meeting, via email), and the deletion of Chris Christie as being in attendance, McNierney moved to accept the September meeting minutes taken by Paul Funch; Funch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with McNierney abstaining.

Nathan Pfenninger, an Eagle Scout candidate, is interested in a potential project, and had discussed a potential bridge construction at Northwoods with Funch. The bridge behind Williams Barn is a good prototype to consider and look at, although it is probably overengineered for the purpose. Funch will work with Mr. Pfenninger to help him understand the Conservation Commission's permitting process.

Funch reported that 112 registrations have been received for the Town Forest Trail Race on Sunday, right on track with our usual rate. There are portions of the course under water along the Nashua and Squannacook Rivers; Funch will inspect the area late this week to check for trail damage.

Otherwise the race is generally under control and in good shape - Funch will send updates via email as needed.

McNierney reported on the Gibbet Hill worktrip two weeks ago - a lot was accomplished and there's a lot more to do. McNierney will check with Steve Webber about his plans for trail construction along the roadside from the restaurant parking lot to the stone gate at the trail entrance.

McNierney will also investigate the possibility of parking on the Lawrence Academy property across Lowell Road.

Funch reported on the request for financial support from the Fitch's Bridge committee. The group has applied for CPA funding for the complete design work. McNierney moved that the Trails

Committee contribute \$2,000 towards the future construction costs of the Fitch's Bridge restoration to be contributed when the project reaches the construction phase. Burton seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Preiss reported that Alan Taylor has also submitted an expression of interest in serving on the Trails Committee (we have previous letters from Chris Christie and Ed Bretschneider, and had previously recommended Ed Bretschneider to the Board of Selectmen).

Good reported on Wattles Pond and the trash can/trash situation.

Preiss checked in with Barbara Ganem on the status of the railroad corridor acquisition, but has not been able to talk to her directly.

Burton reported that he thinks there is a potential problem with a survey being needed by a deadline.

Funch attended the Board of Selectmen meeting a few weeks ago to discuss the installation of signage at the end of Saddle Lane, at the entrance to the trail corridor on Conservation Commission land. The Selectmen did not support the installation of posts or signage on the highway right of way; the Conservation Commission will install a standard property sign on their property just off the cul-de-sac boundary.

Funch reported on his surprise at the rates being charged by the Williams Barn Committee for rental of the facility; he will be attending their November 4 meeting to discuss their policies.

Burton reported that Tim Murray will be fixing the parking pad on the NEFF Wharton Plantation on Old Dunstable Road.

The Conservation Commission met on Orion Way and the landowner on the left (facing the trail entrance) agreed to permit the installation of a Conservation Commission sign on his parcel further back from the road.

Burton reported that \$26 of maps were sold at the Town Clerk's office since the last time the cash was picked up. Funch will check on when the last deposit was made so we can have an estimate of how quickly they're selling.

Funch moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM; Burton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.