



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

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

Attendees:

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

Visitors:

Tom Callahan
Pierre Comtois

The following corrections were made to the draft minutes of the October meeting: Nathan and Randy Pfenninger were attending, remove "some" in "some tools" and mention 3 Pulaskis and 3 MacLeods, and change "There's lot more to do" to "There's a lot more to do". With those corrections, McNierney moved that the minutes be accepted; Bretschneider seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Funch reported on the dispute between the Conservation Commission and the MBTA over the terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement on the West Groton trail corridor. The Board of Selectmen are taking legal action to compel the MBTA to perform on the terms of that agreement.

The Gibbet Hill trail is in good shape; posts need to be installed at a few points at the top of the hill. McNierney will talk to Steve Webber about assistance in installing them, and about the work involved to complete the rest of the trail work there; he has initiated conversations with Lawrence Academy on the parking situation.

There was a discussion on the distribution of trail maps at Town Hall, and whether we should charge users to cover the costs of printing the maps.

Burton moved that we discontinue the practice of charging for maps at Town Hall. McNierney seconded the motion. The committee noted that we may need to reconsider this practice in the future should the situation warrant it. The motion carried unanimously.

Funch reviewed the expense/income summary for the 2005 Groton Trail Race. The overall finances went well and were very much in line with our usual expectations. McNierney noted that we may be getting to the point where a "Friends of the Trails" organization is worth the effort and expense.

Good distributed samples of the new trail marker set, including the green-on-white "through trail" markers, the green-on-yellow "loop trail" markers, and the new blue-on-white "side trail" markers.

Shaffer is working on the update/repair/replacement of the mileage markers on the Rail Trail.

Funch has been talking with John Walsh to identify trail mapping data that can be of use to public safety officials in Groton. McNierney offered to send any information he has to interested parties; there is considerably more information that needs to be acquired, and if we can identify that information carefully we can begin a program to acquire it.

Funch reported that the Williams Barn Committee was extremely supportive of making the barn available at no charge for programs sponsored by town boards and committees, and encourages programs at the barn. There are plans in the works for winter events at the barn.

Funch reviewed the "project list" developed by the committee last spring, just as a reminder and a refresher for new projects. The list of projects from the March 15, 2005 meeting included:

1. Longley II - signage and trail work completed
2. Still Meadow - no trail flagging done, McNierney and Good will pursue
3. Deerhaven - Funch still working on finishing up that list
4. High School - Funch needs to finish up the public trail work
5. Cronin Conservation trail sign - the Conservation Commission is ordering a replacement for the sign
6. Partridgeberry Woods - no work done
7. Crosswinds - trail installed but we haven't been back there; Tom Callahan offered to help pick this up
8. Throne Signage and Trail Marking - not done yet, McNierney still owns it
9. Groton 350th projects - open, not complete
10. Gibbet/Angus projects - making progress, not done
11. Wiewel/Nate Nutting trail connection - McNierney will bring Bob Lotz's trail data to a future meeting for planning
12. Paquawket Path - Conservation Commission is looking for legal assistance, Good will follow up
13. Reedy Meadow Estates - in process, now before the Planning Board
14. Wallace Road trail connection - completed by Legge
15. MBTA land acquisition - in process
16. Integrity Way - still needs to be done; Legge responsible, Tom Callahan expressed interest
17. Orion Way trail corridor - Burton made this project happen, some signage would still be helpful; a Hayden Road connection would be a valuable addition
18. Meadow View neighborhood - still needs to be looked at and marked
19. Trail documentation - reference to Kris Corwin's online documentation, which is excellent
20. Groton Woods to Acorn Path - needs work, needs Evan Owen's assistance, Burton will pursue
21. Power line trails north of Martin's Pond Road - Preiss will investigate
22. Wharton Plantation trail projects - work done, more to do
23. Painted Post loop trail - turned out not to be feasible, Amanda's Way will be a better solution
24. Haystack Observatory - connections need to be marked, labeled, cleaned up
25. Rail Trail to Pacer Way corridor marking - McNierney needs to do this
26. Sargisson Beach trail - not done, Bretschneider will pursue it
27. Rich Tree Forest Trails - Funch owns it, no work yet done
28. Whispering Brook - Mason Back 100 connection - lots of beaver impoundment, McNierney will pursue if and when possible

Bretschneider mentioned the Paugus Trail off Forest Drive development in Groton Woods that has a public trail corridor that may need maintenance/management during the construction of the houses.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.