



# TOWN OF GROTON

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## Groton Trails Committee

**\*\* Meeting Minutes \*\* DRAFT \*\***  
**21 February 2005**

### Attendees:

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

### Visitors:

none

**DRAFT**

At 7.36 pm Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with the above quorum of Committee members.

### Topics

- 1) MBTA Trail Update – no news according to Barbara Ganem.
- 2) Planning projects – in addition to those discussed under NEMBA Project
  - a) Acorn Path – Vic obtained a quote of \$1,100 from David Ross & Assoc. (did the original surveying of the area) for marking the approximately 10 foot wide connection from Acorn Path cul-de-sac to the Groton Woods parcel (at end of Duck Pond Rd.). Vic was encouraged to ask Con Comm to pick up the tab for the survey. Survey is felt to be essential because the path is very narrow and one abutter is not favorable towards its use as a trail.
  - b) Install trailhead posts at Northwoods
  - c) Wiewel Conservation Parcel – Take another look at the trail at the bottom of the hill and see what it needs to be made more passable (logs and planks, e.g.). Also follow up with Bob Lotz's evaluation of possible trail connection that stays on Conservation property and goes around house toward Nate Nutting Rd.
  - d) Approval for trailhead posts at entrance from Stillmeadow field towards Wattles Pond (not discussed at meeting!)
- 3) Articles to write for local news media – many suggestions were made, including:
  - a) Explanation of rules (default and by exception) for Con Comm properties (motorized vehicles, hunting, dusk to dawn, etc.); hunting season dates (major ones, like deer; Sundays are no hunting days)
  - b) The NEMBA Project (in advance of the event and/or afterwards)
  - c) Fitch's Bridge – Trails in the vicinity; design; schedule (?)
  - d) Batten Woods – nice set of trails connecting to other areas; attractive entrance from cul-de-sac
  - e) A summary of the Annual Report we submitted for 2005.
  - f) Announcement of the completion of Gibbet Hill trail; then Scarlet Hill trails; then connection through "Angus Acre" (GCT) to Martins Pond Rd.
- 4) Williams Barn Outing – Highly unlikely there will be enough snow for the snowshoe race. Everyone is encouraged to come enjoy the other activities anyway. If there IS snow, be prepared to spring into action!
- 5) NEMBA Trail Days – After extended discussion, all present seemed to feel that "reserving" a day would provide good motivation to pull together a fairly large project. Concerns were expressed about not

having enough work to do for people that show up, so there would need to be a substantial number of tasks. No definite project was decided, but the main possibility discussed was the Williams Barn Conservation Area. Possible tasks would include:

- a) Foot bridges over the 2 streams that flow most of the year and cross the trail (the third stream, from the large old beaver dam, has the bridge built over it by Craig Hauser). The first is that flowing from the new beaver dam, about ¼ mile from the barn. The other is another ¼ mile along the dirt road, beyond the loop trail as it climbs up to Brooks Orchard.
  - b) Re-routing of the trail beyond the loop trail to avoid the usually soggy dirt roadway and to provide a new entrance to the Brooks Orchard parcel (since the current termination will probably be very close to or in an eventual house lot)
  - c) Opening of a new trail(s) up the north side of Chestnut Hill, in accordance with the Forestry Plan developed by Gary Goldrup.
- 6) Another possibility discussed was the Phoebe Keyes Woods (NEFF).
  - 7) It was felt the project should be scheduled later in the year to give us time to develop a large project, avoiding October (Trail Races) and August (deer flies). Also, avoiding Grotonfest led us to propose September 23 or 24 as the date for the project.
  - 8) Wharton Plantation – Peter Morrisson asked us to reserve June 17 for the NEFF Discovery Day project at Wharton Plantation. According to Peter, “There is some minor trail maintenance, trail widening and/or new trail possibilities.”
  - 9) Letter of support for TPL-led project at “Surrenden Farms. Support was unanimous for our beloved Chair Joachim to write a letter to Richard Hughson, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee, Town Hall, 173 Main St., Groton, MA 01450, saying  
“Dear Mr. Hughson, The Groton Trails Committee strongly supports the acquisition of the Campbell and Strahan Trust parcels by the Town of Groton, Groton School, and private donors, with conservation restrictions placed on all the lands not sold as house lots. We urge you to approve the application for \$5,600,000 in Community Preservation Act funds by the Board of Selectmen. Sincerely yours, The Groton Trails Committee (list members)”

Adjournment:

Shaffer moved to adjourn. Funch seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9.30pm.

