



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Meeting Minutes ** DRAFT ****
20 June 2005

Attendees:

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

Visitors:

Rich Hughson, chairman of the Community Preservation Committee and Vice Chairman of the Surrenden Farm Land Use Committee
Brad Paul

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At 7.30 pm Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with the above quorum of Committee members.

Topics

Legge and McNierney renewed their commitment to deal with the Pacer Way trail system.

Acorn Path - Preiss attended the Conservation Commission public hearing on the installation of a trail on the 10-foot-wide trail corridor on the Conservation Commission's property. One abutter who is opposed to the trail did not attend; the hearing was continued to their next meeting. One of the corner monuments is missing, and there is some difficulty between the need to delineate the corridor and the Conservation Commission's desire to avoid the expense of a survey.

Good reported on the Friends of the Trees' plans to plant Heritage Birch trees at the Northwoods conservation area.

NEFF Discovery Day was held on Saturday, June 17. The trail, laid out two years ago and started last year, was installed on the eastern side of Old Dunstable Road a little north of Lowell Road. The overgrown trail was cleaned up and considerably extended and improved. A few bridges are needed to complete the trail network in this area. There are trails ready to be marked; Legge offered to help with installation of trail markers.

McNierney and Good will work with Groton School to flag the "Burton Trail" on the northern part of their property.

McNierney will also work with TPL and Bill Conley to get permission to map the trail system on the Surrenden Farm property.

The Surrenden Farm Land Use Committee would like a draft trail network plan by August 1.

Funch joined the meeting.

Good reviewed the need for updated trail markers and a trail junction marker on the GCT Throne trails. She will work on the markers and signage.

Funch reported on the Northwoods Boy Scout trail project, undertaken by Nathan Pfenninger, to build a

bridge on the southern edge of the pond. The project has been reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission.

Legge is working on a press release describing the Gibbet Hill trail network. He is also working on a piece describing the bridge over Tuity Brook and Vic Burton's work on it.

Funch encouraged the committee to contact Tom Delaney concerning the installation of a culvert to drain the entrances to the Gibbet Hill trails off Route 40. Preiss will write a letter to Mr. Delaney.

Preiss presented the current trail map on the Williams Barn property; due to the low level of the trail route, it is often wet and difficult. He would like to create a new trail roughly paralleling it to the south, running up the ridge towards Helen Trimper's property, then running east along the southern edge of the parcel towards Brooks Orchard. Preiss will complete the proposal to the Conservation Commission, and will include the installation of the required bridges on the rest of the property.

Preiss reported on the work he is leading to work with the Scarlets to deal with the poison ivy and multiflora rose on the trail network on Scarlet Hill. The multiflora is a very serious problem. Preiss will continue to work with the landowner to improve the situation.

Brad Paul visited the meeting to report on the progress of the Fitch's Bridge restoration project. They have a way to go but are making excellent progress in the design approval process. The committee reiterated its previous vote authorizing a contribution of \$2,000 toward this restoration project. If all goes well it might be possible for construction to begin in 2009.

A memorial for Vic Burton was discussed. There was general agreement that a plaque recognizing Vic's contribution should be placed on the Tuity Brook bridge he designed and created.

The Trails Committee has a vacancy for Vic Burton's former position. We also need to appoint a new member to represent us on the Williams Barn Committee. Alan Taylor has submitted an application for the Trails Committee vacancy.

McNierney moved that the Committee recommend Alan Taylor to the Board of Selectmen for appointment to the Trails Committee. Bretschneider seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Grotonfest is on September 16 (rain date September 17), and we have our place reserved.

We've run out of trail-marking posts; Good will pick up more.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

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