



# TOWN OF GROTON

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



## Groton Trails Committee

\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\* DRAFT \*\*  
September 2006

09/19/06 19.30h

### Attendees:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Chairman         | Joachim Preiss   |
| Vice chair       | Paul Funch       |
| Secretary        | Ed McNierney     |
| Public Relations | Stephen Legge    |
| Members          | Bruce Easom      |
|                  | Wendy Good       |
|                  | Chris Shaffer    |
|                  | Ed Bretschneider |
|                  | Alan Taylor      |

### Visitors:

|                |
|----------------|
| Tom Callahan   |
| Pierre Comtois |

**DRAFT**

### Project reports:

1. Acorn Path - no report
2. NEFF - Peter Morrison has applied to the Community Preservation Committee for funding for trail bridge materials, and he expects it will be brought forward to the fall Special Town Meeting.
3. Groton School - McNierney has worked with David Black, Groton School's representative for this project, to walk the proposed route. Several modifications were proposed and further planning and review will be managed between McNierney and Black.
4. High School Bridge - Funch reports that all the prep work is done but the bridge is not yet constructed or installed.
5. Vic's GPS Files - Lee Burton asked Funch and Rick Muehlke to review Vic's computer and take off any information related to trails work. Funch would welcome assistance in reviewing this data.
6. Friends of Willard Brook - Funch spoke to Emily Norton, their president, at Grotonfest. They are a very active organization; they're been doing education/nature walks along the Nashua River Rail Trail. Soon they will be having a series of walks along the Rail Trail to highlight various topics of interest along the way; Funch suggested to her that this would be a good opportunity for our group and theirs to work together.
7. Northwoods Bridge - Funch reported on Nathan Pfenninger's Eagle Scout bridge construction project, constructing this bridge. It is installed and complete and in good condition - it's worth a visit!
8. List of Posts to Install - One needed on Wharton Plantation at Burntmeadow Road entrance, a few needed at the High School, some on Kailey's Way. If anyone's looking for work, these can be installed at any time with DigSafe approval. McNierney reported that we might want to do the same at the stone gate entrance up Gibbet Hill. We also probably need one more at the field crossing south of the Fire Tower on Gibbet Hill. These don't warrant a whole worktrip, but volunteers are welcome.
9. Williams Barn Open House - Funch reported that this event is to be held on October 8 (Columbus Day weekend). We have an opportunity to have a table with information and a volunteer to answer questions.
10. Gibbet Hill Trails and Marking - Shaffer inquired about the responsibility for mowing on Scarlet Hill; Meredith Scarlet seems to be doing it not, but the Conservation Commission is responsible for the maintenance of trails after they have been installed.

Funch reported that Northwoods, Sawtell and Kaileys Way trail networks need maintenance and cleanup, and are good candidates for worktrips.

There was brief discussion about policies for vegetation clearing and maintenance.

Shaffer reported that the open field route on the Scarlet Hill trail corridor is a little obscure and hard to locate; it's clearly in use, but not obvious to a novice.



Preiss reported that things are in place for the NEMBA work day at Williams Barn this weekend on Saturday; meet at Williams Barn at 9:00. Preiss flagged a few new routes connecting to Brooks Orchard; there was some discussion on the connection options and constraints for these trail routes. We may need to do some GPS work to locate the south-central boundary on the Williams Barn property.

Preiss brought everyone's attention to the recent press coverage for trail activities, led by Steve Legge's efforts. His near-term plan includes Gibbet Hill coverage.

Grotonfest was well-attended, and produced \$97.65 in net Trails Committee revenue. Four or five new folks signed up for email lists on trail projects, and there was a lot of conversation. It was nice to be a neighbor to the Groton Conservation Trust's booth. Preiss would like to have a wooden sign for the Trails Committee; he will contact Rick Muehlke of the GCT to get contact info for Ed Razzaboni, their sign maker.

The Conservation Commission is considering purchasing a good self-propelled mower for trail maintenance. They also currently have a heavy-duty brush cutter, bigger than the units Funch and McNierney have brought to Trails Committee events in the past.

The Trail Race is getting organized; Funch reports that he's a bit behind schedule but things are coming into place. There is some question about the impact of the well/water main construction work on the race. The race will be held on Sunday, October 22 and volunteers are welcome (and expected) as always.

McNierney reported on the current Surrenden Farm trail network and reviewed the current aerial photo with trails and landmarks.

Funch moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM; Bretschneider seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.