



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****

20 July 2010

Selectmen's Conference Room
Town Hall

Attendees:

Chairman ~~Joachim Preiss~~
Vice Chair Paul Funch
~~Stephen Legge~~
Bruce Easom
Wendy Good
Ed Bretschneider
Alan Taylor
David Minott
John Lynch

Visitors:

1. The meeting was called to order with a quorum of committee members at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Minutes of 18 May 2010.** Good moved to approve, seconded by Bretschneider. Six voted in favor, Funch abstained.
3. **Minutes of 15 June 2010.** Easom moved to approve, seconded by Bretschneider. Approved by unanimous vote.
4. **Town of Groton Master Plan.** Easom and Good provided status. Consultant wants more input on sidewalks and trails of high priority. Grants may be available. Recommended sidewalks were reviewed on maps. Committee also wished to offer priorities for important trail connections (across land that is currently in private ownership) that should be considered for future purchase, easements, etc. These would be akin to the prioritized parcels that the Conservation Commission has identified for future purchase. The following were discussed and are offered to start the list of Trail Committee priorities:
 - a. Connection from Fox Run/Integrity Way subdivisions to the Senior Center
 - b. Connection from the Meadowview Subdivision (sidewalks already exist within the subdivision) to the High School over the "esker trail" through Reedy Meadow.
 - c. Connection from Moors Schoolhouse to the Rail Trail via "Lake Romaine" (Groton School lake).
5. **Jenkins Rd. Right of Way.** Easom provided status update to the Committee. At the Selectmen's Meeting on 26 July, they are being asked to request a Summary Judgment from the courts on the rights of the Town of Groton relative to the use of Jenkins Rd. from the Fairgrounds to Fitch's Bridge. Only Easom, Funch, and Preiss will attend to avoid a quorum of the Trails Committee being in attendance.
6. **Gamlin Crystal Springs Trail.** Minott presented a map of the proposed trail and noted it has been flagged. The major question is how to access "Bob's Spring" without causing harm to the environment. David Black (Groton Conservation Trust) will be returning around 26 July and has been asked to provide his opinion. It was suggested that Suzanna Black (GCT Steward) accompany him since she has long connections with Bob Gamlin and the land. All Trails Committee members are also encouraged to assess the flagged trail and offer suggestions.
7. **Sargisson Beach Park Ranger work.** Barbara Ganem (Conservation Commission Assistant)

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requested possible trail jobs for the ranger to perform. Committee recommends: McLains Wood Field mowing, Kailey's Way (Groton Hills) mowing, and Hawtree trail widening/maintenance as starters.

8. **Northwoods Subdivision trail.** Funch noted that the Committee has previously recommended putting trailhead posts in the town right of way to mark the easement that goes up the hill from Northwoods Rd. to the dirt road/path at the highest point in the subdivision. Tom Delaney (Dir., Dept. of Public Works) has agreed to this plan as well. However, because the concrete survey bounds in that area do not appear to exist, some precise GPS work is necessary. Bruce agreed to obtain the subdivision maps, identify the bounds, and locate the precise route of the easement so that this project can be completed.
9. **Pawtucket Path connection to Rail Trail.** Easom reported that the Conservation Commission did a site walk of the easement. The reference points are still available. A trailhead post (in the town right of way; already approved by Tom Delaney) with a map of the easement is recommended. Due to continued opposition by the abutters to this trail easement being used, the Committee agreed that a clear description of the town's right of passage should be provided by Town Counsel, concurrence should be obtained from the Selectmen to proceed with the installation of the post and map, and notification of these actions should be provided to the abutters.
10. **Baddacook Pond Parcel.** Easom provided status on the negotiations between the Conservation Commission (CC) and the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF). The current CC plan is to use a Division of Conservation Services (DCS) grant through the use of Community Preservation Act funds to raise \$370K for the purchase of this parcel on the east side of Baddacook Pond. NEFF then plans to use this money to purchase an additional parcel in the Throne.
11. **Grotonfest.** Funch asked who was available to help on 11 September and all present said they could help.
12. Motion to adjourn was made by Easom, seconded by Taylor, and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Funch.