** Monthly Meeting Minutes **

19 April 2011

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

Visitors: none

At 7.35 pm Chairman Preiss called the meeting to order with the above quorum of Committee members plus listed visitors present.

Topics

(1) Correspondence  
   a. Town accountant’s statement: $250 in our ‘account’  
   b. Funch will investigate again the benefits of launching a 501(c)3 charitable organization, e.g. “The Friends of Groton Trails”. As an organization described in section 501(c)(3) we would be eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions in accordance with Code section 170, and be exempt from federal income tax. A question that arose was if Committee members are permitted to also be officers in the FoGT, which none of the members present was able to answer.

(2) Projects  
   a. Viewel Conservation Land:  
      Preiss reported on GPS’ing the trail.  
      The trail connects to the Bells, Audubon, Nate Nutting Road  
      Need to verify if the trail can avoid Dann Emerson’s land.  
      If Dan Emerson’s land cannot be avoided, would he provide a trail easement?  
      Ice storm damage still has to be removed;  
      Several wet sections need to be rerouted;  
      Is a connection to Rt.119 desirable? Where to connect from Rt.119?  
      Further discussion deferred to the May meeting.
   b. Gibbet Hill Saddle: Preiss preparing an RDA for a culvert.
   c. Chris Marsh: Eagle Scout Project  
      Chris has not yet started raising funds for purchasing a GPS unit.
   d. Groton School/Phoebe Keyes Woods/Groton School Pond/Rail Trail; trail: Preiss to schedule a site walk with Hale Smith (Groton School) and Anna Eliot (made the proposal);  
   e. Surrenden Farms West:  
      Preiss to review last version of Management Plan.  
      Preiss to file RDAs on 3 trail modifications;  
      Preiss to find out from ConsCom if trail around the fields will be mowed.
f. Wharton Plantation trail proposal. Site walk 5/3 7.30am with NEFF.

g. GCT:
   Relationship with the Groton Conservation Trust suffered from miscommunication during the Gamlin Christmas Tree Farm trail proposal. Preiss suggested signing a Memorandum of Understanding with GCT as a requirement for future projects. Mutual responsibilities have to be defined, decision makers named, paths of communication established, etc. in writing before any work on GCT land can resume.

Motion to adjourn by Bretschneider, seconded by Funch.
YEA: Bretschneider, Funch, Minott, Preiss, Taylor; NAY: none; Abstain: none. Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.