



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

** Monthly Meeting Minutes **

21 June 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 7.40 pm Vice-Chair Funch called the meeting to order with the above quorum of Committee members plus listed visitors present.

Topics

(1) Projects

- Marsh property access. Paul received written confirmation from George Marsh that the trail on his family's property on Reedy Meadow Rd. can be maintained and used by the public. The trail connects to the trail on the High School property that comes off the softball field.
- Maintenance projects. Paul reported that since the last meeting, trail maintenance was performed at Surrenden Farm, Hawtree, Groton Hills, and Sawtell. Trails were mowed in the Johnston, Still Meadow, and Hurd parcels.
- NRRT access @119 (DCR). John Lynch reported that using the Honeywell property for access to the Nashua River Rail Trail at Rte. 119 is complicated by Honeywell's request for a large insurance policy. He did a site walk that seemed to confirm that access may be possible from behind the guard rail while staying entirely on the 119 and/or NRRT right-of-way. The possible need for handicapped access was raised as a possible complication, however. DCR officials will be contacted by Paul to see what options might be available.
- Parcel trails catalogue. Paul provided copies of a catalogue he has begun that correlates GPS tracks of trails with the Groton Conservation Trust map of parcels and also adds a description of the trails, their total mileage in the parcel, and difficulties of the trails for various recreational uses (hiking, running, biking, and XC skiing). Ten parcels have been catalogued so far, with a total of 15.5 miles of trails.
- Squannacook River Rail Trail (SqRRT). Steve reported significant progress. The Squannacook Greenway, a 501c(3) group, has been formed. It has representatives from Groton and Townsend and it is authorized to develop the rail trail. DCR is interested in paying the lease payment for the land and assuming the environmental liability. In an unrelated action, apparently on June 15th PanAm abandoned the rail line that goes from Ayer to Townsend Rd. milepost 5, which is approximately at Candice Lane. The presently proposed SqRRT starts approximately one mile further north on Townsend Road in Groton. This could potentially allow a future rail trail connection between the NRRT and the SqRRT.
- Grotonfest application. Paul reported he had received the application for a booth. The Committee unanimously supported the idea of having a booth at Grotonfest again this year.

Owner
Funch
Funch
Lynch
Funch
Legge
Funch

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- g. Groton Town Forest Trail Race. Paul reported that this year's prizes for the races will be bottles of wine that he is making at IncrediBrew in Nashua, NH. He asked if anyone is available to help bottle the wine on Saturday, July 2, starting at 10:30 (and going until around noon).
- h. Future projects. Paul indicated the next trail project would not be until July 2nd or 3rd. The priority order for parcels until the July meeting will be along the lines of Longley II, Marsh trail, Northwoods, Integrity Way, Johnston, Meadowview, Flavell Crossing/Acorn Path, and Hidden Valley Rd.

Funch
Funch
Owner
all
Funch
all
all

(2) Other discussion topics

- i. Future guided walks. Due to the early emergence of deer flies, it was concluded by the Committee that we would not plan any guided walks until our July meeting at the earliest.
- j. Rich Tree Farm projects. Paul will discuss a number of suggestions with DCR (Willard Brook), including: a) trail posts along the NRRT at the Longley II and Cronin CA trails; b) permission to maintain trails in Rich Tree Farm, particularly those south of the main entrance across from Common St.; c) creating a handicapped accessible trail from Nod Rd. to the Nashua River; d) improving the existing trails in Rich Tree Farm with dirt and/or stone dust to cover the exposed roots that make using the trails difficult; e) building a bridge on the loop trail in the northern section of Rich Tree Farm.; f) marking the trails with our Trail Markers.
- k. Bruce Easom stated that he will not be seeking to be re-appointed to the Trails Committee for FY12. Some research will be needed to determine when he began volunteering on the Committee, but it has almost certainly been over ten years. His prodigious efforts on behalf of the Jenkins Rd. rights research, his survey-quality GPS work on many parcels, his help on large numbers of trail projects over the years, his help in the design and construction of bridges the Committee has built, and his always thoughtful and insightful comments will be sorely missed.
- l. The long-term status of the Baddacook CA trails with respect to recreational uses was discussed briefly. It appears that Forestry Plans are being developed by the Conservation Commission for a number of CAs, including Baddacook and Williams Barn (Sorhaug) and the Trails Committee desires to be involved in the implementation of those plans in order to maintain trails wherever it is reasonable to do so. Paul will follow up with Barbara Ganem.

Motion to adjourn by Bretschneider, seconded by Funch.

YEA: Bretschneider, Funch, Minott, Taylor, Good, Easom, Legge; NAY: none; Abstain: none. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved as amended on 7/29/11. Respectfully submitted by Joachim Preiss.