

Groton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

16 August 2011

Chairman: Paul Funch
Vice Chairman: Joachim Preiss
Secretary: Wendy Good

Members Present: Paul Funch, Joachim Preiss, Ed Bretschneider, John Lynch, Alan Taylor, David Minott, Wendy Good

Visitors: John Wiesner

At 7:31 pm, Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with a quorum present.

1. Approval of minutes from July 2011 was unanimous, with Lynch abstaining.
2. Monthly trail maintenance report was given by Funch on many projects including Groton Woods, Hidden Valley, Batten Woods, Town Forest, Marsh land, and Reedy Meadow.
3. Grotonfest time slot duties were decided. Funch & Minott will set up, and Funch & Preiss will take down; 10 to 12 am: Lynch & Bretschneider; 12 to 2 pm: Wiesner & Legge; 2 to 4 pm: Preiss & Taylor; 3 to 4 pm: Lynch.
4. Groton Town Forest Race, Oct 23rd, is progressing: getting approvals, gate keys, water stop, insurance, etc. Groton EMT Association owns adjoining property and offers it for parking.
5. Conservation Commission did a site walk of some of the properties with trail issues. Funch attended. Sawtell has issues with culvert collapsing, sod clumps and grass clippings left on the trail, and corner planting appears to be on CC land. Northwoods neighbors have corrected the pile of debris on the trail. At the Longley II cul de sac on Drumlin Hill Rd., the sign needs trimming so it can be more visible since the invisible dog fencing sign may scare hikers away if trail is not clearly marked. Hawtree has dog fence flags, bench, and mowed lawn on CC land. Hidden Valley Road #77 is mowing CC land between trail posts. Orion Way red mulch on CC land is gone and lawn now continuous with trail. Funch indicated CC has good understanding of abutter infringement issues relative to trails.
6. Review of trail items needing attention. A trail connecting Nashua Road Town Property controlled by the Groton Housing Authority to Sampas Conservation Woods, which would get users to Nashua River Rail Trail safely, would be desirable. Need Housing Authority approval. Gibbet Hill access off Rte. 40 needs culvert cleaned. This is town property so getting a higher priority on Tom Delaney's to-do list is desired. David Pitkin is doing a management plan for Gibbet Hill so that may help address wet trail issue. Surrenden Farm needs marking or map. Weiwei Conservation Land needs trees chain sawed and Committee discussed ways to avoid using Dan Emerson's driveway to connect to Blackman Field and Woods conservation area. Preiss has mapped a possible route and Good

agreed to lead a hike of the area in Sept. Nashua River Rail Trail access from Rte. 119 and Arlington St area needs follow up. Web site maintenance and updates to display map tracks is desirable.

7. Bruce Easom has officially resigned after a long and productive tenure. What the Trails Committee could do to recognize such public service was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm