

Groton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

20 September 2011

at Groton Town Hall

Chairman: Paul Funch
Vice Chairman: Joachim Preiss
Secretary: Steve Legge

Members present: Paul Funch, Wendy Good, Steve Legge, David Minott, Alan Taylor, Weisner (appointed, not yet sworn in)

Vistors attending: Bruce Easom, Christopher Marsh, Dean Marsh

At 7:45 Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with a quorum present.

1. August 2011 meeting minutes – approved unanimously, with Legge abstaining.
2. Grotonfest booth arrangement and manning details discussed. Grotonfest scheduled for Saturday, September 24th. Visitor Bruce Easom was assigned to make handout cards for the GTC website.
3. Chris Marsh, a 10th grader and candidate for Eagle Scout, presented his progress developing GPS tracks for existing trails in three West Groton Conservation parcels: The Bertozzi Wildlife Management area adjacent to the Crosswinds Drive development, the Johnston Property on Maple Avenue and Hayes Woods, also on Maple Avenue. He started this project with the GTC in June 2010 and will ultimately produce a new technologically advanced “interactive” map on the GTC website for the mentioned properties. Members made several comments to Chris concerning finished map formatting and also expressed appreciation for his initiative and for his father Dean Marsh’s software support for the project. John Lynch and Joachim Preiss will provide specific follow-up guidance to Chris on the final stages of work.
4. Funch passed out an updated GPS track history catalogue for 21 trails in town.
5. Planning for the 14th annual Town Forest Trail Race was discussed. Race scheduled for Sunday October 23rd. The race is co-sponsored by the Trails Committee and the Squannacook River Runners, for the benefit of the Trails Committee. Paul Funch continues as the race director.
6. Trail projects completed were reviewed by Funch: Farmer’s and Mechanic’s clean-up of fallen trees, including the trail from Gratuity road on 9/17; general clean-up of Town Forest trails on 8/20.

7. A planned Conservation Commission walk on Saturday 9/21 at the end of Jenkins Road was announced.
8. Funch presented a letter draft supporting Josh Acaba, candidate for National Honor Society at GDRHS. Josh has frequently assisted the committee in trail clean-ups. Approved unanimously.
9. Good presented some observations and led discussions concerning trails in the Throne area between Rockwood and Fieldstone Drives.
10. Legge informed the committee that the Boston & Maine had reversed its decision to file for abandonment of track rights from Ayer to Milepost 5 in West Groton (an extension of the on-going Squannacook River Rail Trail project).
11. Easom informed the committee that a new 501(3)c corporation had been formed called Squannacook Greenways Corporation, designed to replace the previous 2-town planning committee and to have the authority to implement recommendations on moving the project forward and making it a reality. Easom is the president of this organization, Peter Cunningham the vice president, and Bill Rideout the treasurer. Bob Hargraves and 9 others are board members. At this time a stone dust trail is anticipated costing approximately \$100,000 per mile, a substantial reduction from previous estimates made for a paved trail under Mass Highway jurisdiction.
12. Planned public hikes – hopefully Lynch will handle newspaper advertising:
 - Dave Minott will lead a hike on the Gamlin Crystal Springs trail Sunday, October 16th at 2 PM.
 - Dave Minott will lead a hike on the Gamlin Esker Trail Sunday, November 6th at 2 PM.
 - Alan Taylor will lead a hike in the Throne from Rockland Drive on Sunday November 20th at 2 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM.