

Groton Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2011

Chairman: Paul Funch
Vice Chairman: Joachim Preiss
Minutes By: Ed Bretschneider

Members present: Paul Funch, Wendy Good, David Minott, Alan Taylor, John Wiesner, Ed Bretschneider, Joachim Preiss, Steve Legge, and John Lynch

Visitors Attending: Bruce Easom

Chairman Funch called the meeting to order at 7:33.

1. Funch, Legge and Minott approved September 20 minutes. Preiss, Bretschneider and Wiesner abstained. Lynch, Taylor and Good arrived after the vote took place.
2. Regarding the Town Forest Trail Race, Funch asked volunteers to arrive at the Senior Center by 9:30. He mentioned that so far there were 120 applications. Legge, Preiss and Funch will mark the trails on Saturday October 21 and meet at 1:00.
3. Taylor and Minott reviewed the October 23 hike that they led on the Gamlin property. Twelve people joined the hike. They plan another hike, on November 6, on the Gamlin Esker Trail.
4. Good mentioned that the Wiewel Trail needed major trail clearing. November 5 at 10 AM was scheduled for the clean up.
5. Funch said he had a follow-up conversation with Ed Torcoletti based on the letter he sent to gain permission to maintain and upgrade trails at the Rich Tree Farm and along the Nashua River Rail Trail; Ed was supportive of the Trails Committee doing trail maintenance.
6. Funch reported that Sonya LeClair (NEFF), said NEFF would likely be willing to work with the Trails Committee on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for maintaining trails in the Wharton Plantation, Keyes, Woods, and other NEFF properties.
7. Funch plans to meet with the Town Forest Committee on trail maintenance procedures to be put in an MOA. He mentioned the mountain bikers who use the trails volunteered to do trail maintenance. Paul told them that it is really the

responsibility of the Trails Committee and doing any trail work without the Trails Committee's oversight might cause some problems with the Town Forest Committee. Funch's meeting is intended to clarify what types of maintenance is acceptable and what sort of notification is necessary prior to working on Town Forest Trails. Good said notification should go both ways.

8. Funch said he would be proposing a new charter for the Trails Committee, which has not changed since its inception. In light of changes in the work that the committee does, he thought a revision or update was appropriate. Bruce Easom suggested that Funch meet with the Selectmen about this, since they are the only town committee that can sign contracts on behalf of the town.
9. The committee discussed the Deerhaven conservation parcel that has trails going over some private property. There was some discussion about getting the Conservation Commission involved in trying to obtain easements that were shown in the planning documents. The neighborhood committee is requesting that the Conservation Commission put a gate on the access road to prevent cars driving in and the associated partying that has been occurring. Easom offered to investigate the original planning documents to see what happened to the easements that were planned for the trail.
10. Decided to continue hikes through winter. Scheduled Gamlin Esker Trail for November 6, Surrenden Farm for December 4, and Brooks Orchard for December 18. Minott volunteered to be initial hike coordinator. This will be a rotating assignment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. by unanimous vote.