



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
(978) 448-1111
FAX: (978) 448-1115



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **17 January 2012**

Attendees:

Chairman	Paul Funch	X
Vice Chair	Joachim Preiss	X
Members:	Ed Bretschneider	No
	Wendy Good	X
	Stephen Legge	X
Recorder	John Lynch	X
	David Minott	No
	Alan Taylor	X
	John Wiesner	X

Visitors:

X	Bruce Easom
X	Helene Cahen

1. Chairman Funch called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
2. Steve Legge moved to accept the minutes of the December 2011 meeting; John Lynch seconded and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. Follow-ups from previous meetings.
 - 3.1. Paul Funch reported that Dean Marsh continues to help with converting GPS data into trail routes for the website. Trails for the Town Forest, Phebe Keyes Woods, Groton School and Shepley Hills are being worked on and should be available soon. We also discussed adding trail descriptions, points of interest and having the ability to sort trails on the website based on user interest. We are awaiting an opinion from Town Counsel on the subject of trail mapping and private property.
 - 3.2. On the topic of trails and marking them it was agreed that a sign sub-committee should be established to determine signage needs. It was noted that Wharton needs signage for bridges that will not support horses.
 - 3.3. Paul Funch reported on a trails workday between Christmas and New Year's Day at Longley II and the Sand Pit at Cronin. Over a dozen people attended to help clear trails that needed clearing after the heavy October snowstorm. Paul also reported on trail cleanup at Hawtree. Other trails are still in need of clearing so additional work days are to be planned.
 - 3.4. Discussed the topic of Memo of Understandings (MOAs) again. Turnover at NEFF is slowing progress in advancing a MOA with NEFF. The Groton Conservation Trust will be assigning the MOA to a subcommittee.

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- 3.5. Guided hikes - Dave was not in attendance so we did not schedule any hikes. We did discuss the topic of a full moon hike and Joachim volunteered to submit a request for a permit since the trails are closed after dark.
 - 3.6. The Groton School is open to discussions of adding trails to Keyes Woods/Groton School area. There is a plan to remediate the old Groton School dump and make a park overlooking Lake Romaine with a trail built to provide access to the park.
 - 3.7. Contact has been made with the DCR to complete a loop trail on the northern part of Rich Tree Farm off of Common Street. A youth conservation group plans to build a bridge over a seasonal stream that is in the flood plain.
 - 3.8. The Groton Conservation Commission requested a letter of support from the Trails Committee as they seek CPC funding of \$150,000 for acquiring properties in town. The funds they seek are not project specific but will serve as reserves for future purchase opportunities. Wendy Good moved to authorize Paul Funch to write a letter of support. John Wiesner seconded the motion and the vote of the committee was unanimous in support of the motion.
 - 3.9. Paul Funch raised the topic of purchasing plaques to recognize Ed McNierney and Bruce Easom for over 10 years of exceptional service to the GTC.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. by unanimous vote.