



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **20 March 2012**

Attendees:

Chairman	Paul Funch	X
Vice Chair	Joachim Preiss	X
Members:	Ed Bretschneider	X
	Wendy Good	
	Stephen Legge	X
	John Lynch	X
	David Minott	X
	Alan Taylor	X
	John Wiesner	X

Visitors:

Bruce Easom, ConsCom
Helene Cahen
Mike Roberts, Groton Historical Society, Groton Historical Commission
Juan Riviera, United Way North Central MA
Jon Strauss, Groton Parks Commission
Groton Sign Subcommittee

At 7.30 pm Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with the above quorum of Committee members plus listed visitors present.

Topics

- (1) Bretschneider moved for the committee to approve the minutes from the January meeting as written, Taylor seconded, all in favor, abstain: none: nay: none;
- (2) Mike Roberts representing the Historical Society and the Historical Commission will support adding tree species to the GTC parcel and trails database; also historic data, and columns for conservation information, and geology. The question was raised how detailed historic informant should be due to the concern for vandalism; Roberts asked for a letter to the Groton Historical Commission to officially request support with the database, Lynch moved for the Chairman to write the letter, Bretschneider seconded, all in favor; abstain: none: nay: none;
- (3) Funch reported that the MRPC (Montachusett Regional Planning Commission) is working on a brochure of the area, and that Chris Christie attended a meeting recently on the topic. Funch suggested keeping our ears open for announcements of similar meetings which the GTC should attend.
- (4) Funch reported on 2 trail maintenance events at the Rich Tree Forest and the Groton Town Forest, with 14 participants each; at Rich Tree Forest there will be a trash cleanup on 4/21 which Funch will support.
- (5) Funch reported that on Sunday 4/15 Lawrence Academy will hold their community service day with about 200 students. Taylor, Legge (tentative), Funch, and Lynch (tentative) signed up.

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(6) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA):

DCR (Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation) declined; GTC members need waivers signed annually to participate in trail maintenance events;

NEFF: making progress on the document;

No word from the GCT (Groton Conservation Trust) and the GTFC (Groton Town Forest Committee);

(7) Jon Strauss representing the Parks Commission and the Sign Subcommittee proposed kiosks for trail entrances. Preiss raised the concern of vandalism if the kiosk is not visible from the road. Agreement among the attendees that different solutions are needed for different parcels and applications. Showing a QR code at the kiosk was also discussed to link to the trail map of the respective parcel. Legge to coordinate with Jon.

(8) PanAm Railway: PanAm rescinded their offer to abandon the railway they own from Ayer to West Groton along the Town Forest and the trestle bridge across the Nashua River.

(9) Juan Riviera, Volunteer Project Development Coordinator for the North Central Massachusetts region is asking for support for the Dash for a Difference: 10 teams are working on projects in Ayer, Harvard, Shirley, Groton, etc. Requires shovel-ready projects to participate. Examples that were discussed were trail head posts at Northwoods, Hawtree; the McLain's Woods Road Fence, and others. 5 people per team, 20 minutes per location per slot, Saturday 4/14, 9am- 3pm. Local supervisor stamps each person's dashboard, then they move on to the next project. Lynch, Easom, and Funch volunteered.

(10) Interactive maps: The need was identified to coordinate editing and filling in the necessary information. Network solutions and Google are having software trouble right now, which is supposed to be fixed soon.

(11) Preiss reported on Rt40 where DPW chief Tom Delaney fixed culverts and the ditch by the road, graded the trail, took out a huge stump, removed invasives, and cleaned up the area really well.

(12) The committee discussed issuing a press release on the interactive trail maps once the web site is up again;

(13) Guided hikes: nothing planned at this time;

(14) Preiss moved to adjourn the meeting, Lynch seconded, all in favor, abstain: none: nay: none.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.