



TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **20 November 2012**

	Attendees		Visitors
Chairman:	Paul Funch	X	Jason Remillard
Vice Chairman:	Joachim Preiss	X	Grace Remillard
Members:	Ed Bretschneider		Dean Marsh
	Wendy Good	X	Bruce Easom
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Olin Lathrop	X	
	David Minott	X	
	Scott Stathis	X	
	John Wiesner	X <i>Recorder</i>	

Call to Order

At 7:35 pm, Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with a quorum of Committee members present.

Approval of Minutes

- Legge moved to accept the minutes of the 18 September 2012 meeting. Motion was seconded by Scott Stathis. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.
- Legge moved to accept the minutes of the 18 October 2012 meeting. Motion was seconded by Olin Lathrop. Motion was approved by a vote of 4-0, with Funch, Lathrop, Legge and Wiesner voting in the affirmative; Good, Minott, Preiss, and Stathis abstained.

Trail Maintenance Activities

- Stathis cleared trails in the Town Forest, but mentioned one large fallen tree remaining on Town Forest Rd.
- On 21 October, Funch and Preiss cleaned up both Gibbet Hill and Scarlet Hill trails. Preiss reported that big pine tree branches are impeding the public area on top of Scarlet Hill. Funch noted that trimming needs to be done of the overhanging bushes on the rerouted portion of the trail to the summit. Preiss noted the Scarlet Hill path was wet, but will suffice for the winter. A discussion ensued about adding two culverts to the area in the saddle on Gibbet Hill; Preiss agreed to take on the design for this project.
- Funch has been in contact with the DCR concerning projects in Rich Tree Farm Forest. One proposal is to construct a handicap accessible stone dust trail off of Nod Rd. DCR Supervisor Bruce Colburn has sent us a form to fill out for approval of the project by DCR and information on the Recreational Trails Grant Program of the Commonwealth. Legge offered to help Funch meet the 31 January deadline for the grant. Funch noted DCR's difficult budgetary situation which has resulted in the assistant position to Bruce Colburn being cut.

Groton Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Guided Hikes

Minott will lead a hike on Scarlet and Gibbet Hills at 1pm on 25 November.

QR Code Signs

Members were given QR Code Signs for installation on trailhead posts.

Website(s)

Groton residents Jason Remillard and his daughter Grace Remillard made a presentation on their digital mapping of Groton trails using an application open to the public entitled "Open Street Maps." The trail markings for OSM in Groton include: downloads from Jason and Grace's smart phone GPS; the trail committee's own website; the Massachusetts GIS listings with rough parcel lines; and the website's general access to streets and points of interest. One of the advantages of OSM is the ability for any person to add to this collective knowledge. A concern of the committee is monitoring the proper labeling of trails as public access, private access, and private with public access. Jason has agreed to work closely with the committee and Dean Marsh, who with his son Chris created our website's current digital trails mapping.

Town Forest Trail Races

The Town Forest Trail Races now managed by the Squannacook River Runners has agreed to donate a generous portion of earnings (TBD) from the races to the Trails Committee. Runner turnout was slightly lower than last year.

ConsCom Items

Former Trails Committee member Bruce Easom reported on his survey of the newly attained easement on the Boston & Maine right-of-way near the Wallace Rd. (Fitch's Estate) Conservation Area. Slight discrepancies in measurements need to be finalized, and it was agreed that land owner Chris Shattuck should be kept informed of the process.

Adjournment

- Stathis moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Preiss. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.