



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **18 December 2012**

	<b>Attendees</b>		<b>Visitors</b>
<b>Chairman:</b>	Paul Funch	X	None
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	Joachim Preiss	X	
<b>Members:</b>	Ed Bretschneider	X	
	Wendy Good	X	
	Olin Lathrop	X	
	Stephen Legge	X	
	David Minott	X ( <i>Recorder</i> )	
	Scott Stathis	X	
	John Wiesner	X	

### **Call to Order**

- At 8:25 P.M., Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with a quorum of Committee members present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Preiss moved to accept the minutes of the 20 November 2012 meeting, as amended. Motion was seconded by Bretschneider and approved by unanimous vote.

### **New Trail Development**

- B&M/Shattuck Trail – Funch reported that the trail is essentially done and now just requires installation of trailhead posts where it intersects the trail on the Johnston parcel at the power lines.
- Wattles Pond Peninsula Trail – The status of the trail was raised, but no specific action was discussed.

### **Trail Maintenance Activities**

- Funch reported having completed on 9 December the cleanup of the trails on the Johnston parcel, including the tree fall.
- Funch reported evidence of chain-sawing and leaf-blowing activities by non-GTC people on Town-owned parcels, e.g., Surrenden Farms, McLain's Woods, Williams Barn Sorhaug Woods, and Town Forest. He noted that while such activities are disallowed except by GTC members, the GTC does not have enforcement authority and can only discourage those activities as the opportunity arises.

### **Guided Hikes**

- Minott reported leading a guided hike on the Gamlin Esker Trail on 11 November (31 hikers) and a guided hike on Scarlet and Gibbet Hills on 25 November (8 hikers).
- Lathrop suggested a guided hike that showcases Fitch's Bridge be held on 20 January 2013 (1PM), which would be just ahead of the Town Meeting vote on the project scheduled for 26 January 2013. Preiss noted that the educational value and the timing would be very auspicious. Lathrop will coordinate with Minott on publicizing the planned hike.
- Legge requested a summary of all guided hikes led by the GTC during 2012 for inclusion in the Annual Town Report. Minott said the summary is ready and he will forward it to Legge.

### **Around Town with Jane Bouvier**

- Funch reported having accompanied the Greenway Committee to appear on this local television show on 9 December in order to discuss the merits of the Fitch's Bridge Project.

### **Rich Tree Farm – Wheelchair-Accessible Trail**

- Funch reported having started preparation of the grant application for trail construction funding and also the request for DCR approval. He noted that this will require obtaining the approvals of relevant Town committees and organizations.

### **QR Code Signs**

- Stathis noted that we need to determine which trails are now marked with QR Codes versus those not yet marked. He requested GTC members to email the identities of trails known to be marked.
- Lathrop suggested that QR Code Signs be placed on the Rail Trail.

### **Adjournment**

- Minott moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Preiss and was approved by unanimous vote.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.