



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\***

**19 March 2013**

### **Attendees:**

Chairman	Paul Funch	X
Vice Chair	Joachim Preiss	
Members:	Ed Bretschneider	
	Wendy Good	
Recorder	Olin Lathrop	X
	Stephen Legge	
	David Minott	X
	Scott Stathis	X
	John Wiesner	X

### **Visitors:**

Dave Pitkin

Paul called the meeting to order at 19:48.

The minutes for the 19 February meeting were approved unanimously.

Dave Pitkin presented information about the Gibbet and Scarlet Hills conservation restrictions. The town has the responsibility for maintaining the trails. Open questions are exactly what entity within the town has the job of maintaining these trails, how often, and how often they should be monitored. The discussion was informational only with no votes taken.

Dave Pitkin presented the timeline for the Fitch's Bridge replacement. Removal is scheduled for May, repairs in June, installation of the new structure in July, and opening to the public in August. This timeline is only preliminary at this point. It was mentioned that the Groton School crew team uses this section of the river from now to 27 May.

No guided hike is scheduled for June yet. Olin plans to lead one for both the Trails Committee and the AMC, but the exact date and location have not been set yet.

Paul reported on the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition meeting held on 13 March in the Ayer Town Hall for the communities of Ayer, Groton, Harvard, and Shirley. The MRTC is trying to put together a regional map for tourists to be distributed in the Route 2 rest area. Also at the meeting, Dick O'Brien, MRTC chairman, described how the state would like to see a "trails vision" from each town. This is somewhat like a master plan, but for issues related to trails.

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Paul announced there will be a state-wide meeting sponsored by DCR on various trail-related topics in Devens on 4 May.

Paul reported that the Town Forest Committee has denied our request for putting up a single 4x4 inch QR code plaque somewhere near the Town Forest Road entrance. The Town Forest Committee also asked about the unauthorized connector trail that has emerged near the Dead River. No one present had any direct knowledge of who built the trail, but it was definitely not done by anyone on the Trails Committee.

Paul asked all members to prepare a list of things that the Trails Committee should address over the next year. It is planned that this list will be discussed, prioritized, and possibly action items determined at the next meeting. Paul suggested a few starting items for the list: The trails vision the state would like from the town, trail connection from the Cox/Walker Land to Williams Barn, extension of the south end of the Wiewel parcel trail around Dan Emerson's house and along the swamp, involvement with the opening of Fitch's Bridge, Riverfest, Grotonfest, a new trail for the middle school cross-country team, and the paper map of Groton trails proposed by Jason Remillard.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:36 by unanimous vote.