



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **21 May 2013**

	Attendees		Visitors
Chairman:	Paul Funch	X	
Vice Chairman:	Joachim Preiss	X	
Members:	Ed Bretschneider	X	
	Wendy Good	X	
	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

Minott moved to accept the minutes of the 16 April 2013 meeting.

Motion was seconded by Preiss and approved by unanimous vote, with Stathis and Good abstaining.

Reports

- Lathrop reported 27 people participated in the guided hike held in May at Snake Hill/ Forest Bells.
- Upcoming Guided Hikes: Lathrop and Minott will lead on 9 June at Gamlin Cystal Spring and Mason Back 100 conservation areas. Minott will lead in July at Gamlin Esker Trail.
- Funch and Lathrop attended a Massachusetts Trails Conference on 4 May. This DCR sponsored meeting was attended by 200 people around the state and Funch reported that the main speaker talked about changing the way we talk about trails, including a "pathways" vision for transport (non-vehicular). Pathways help combat obesity, and encourage "free-range" kids. While the main speaker was well-received, Lathrop suggested that time for smaller group open discussions about trail issues would have been useful.
- Chestnut Hill/Williams-Sorhaug trail was implemented by Preiss and five others. The trail is approximately 0.4 miles long and winds up the northern side of the Water Tower hill. It is marked with blue trail markers, along with entrance trail posts at the top of the hill. The water tower department has agreed to keep the grass mowed around the tower. Another connecting trail was created on the southeast side of the hill zig-zagging along a pipeline clearing.
- Funch reported his efforts to create a Groton Pathways Vision and Planning Committee. MRTC regional and state funding may be available. Benefits include health, less motor-vehicular use, pedestrian friendly town, students walking to schools. Selectman approval first, followed by town meeting.
- Funch reported that starting on 1 May, six Americorps volunteers spent four full days in the Rich Tree Farm State Forest clearing, widening and marking all the trails. More marking needs to be completed. Funch also helped.
- Funch reported on a McLain's Woods stream crossing that needs attention. Sticks strewn across have

worsened the crossing. Preiss suggested we lay sturdy wide boards across.

- h) Wharton Plantation trail recovery project will be on 25 May at 10:30, led by Funch.
- i) Funch reported that the Hawtree trail needs to be re-routed after Bruce Easom surveyed the land and found a discrepancy between conservation and private land.
- j) Funch, Legge, and Wiesner flagged a new GDRMS XC trail that surrounds the MS. The trail is mostly in wooded terrain, and includes a small portion of two abutter properties, Sally Smith, and INSCO.
- k) Paugus Trail entrance corridor to Groton Woods needs to be opened up.
- l) Bates boardwalk needs repair, and is a high priority of the Conservation Trust. An Eagle Scout project was suggested, and we could offer help.
- m) Appointments with Conservation Commission re: backpack blower use, illegal ATV activity. Leaf blowers should only be used for new trails or maintaining after storm damage. Preiss encountered an ATV rider on the trail. Call police when this happens.

Discussions

- a) It was agreed to set up an information booth at Riverfest on 23 June. Lathrop, Minott, Funch, and Wiesner agreed to help.
- b) It was agreed to set up a booth at Grotonfest on 21 Sept.
- c) Accessible Trail Workshop on 18-19 June is being offered. The committee voted unanimously to allocate funds for members to attend. Funch has signed up and Legge expressed interest.
- d) The need for chainsaw certification courses, personal protection equipment and possible cost reimbursement was discussed and informally agreed upon.
- e) Ed Bretschneider announced he is retiring from the committee. Discussion about possibly increasing the number of members from 9 to 11.
- f) Fitch's Bridge opening ceremony planning was discussed. Wiesner mentioned the idea of having guided equestrian, pedestrian, cyclist, and canoe trips disembark from ceremony.
- h) In addition to our guided hikes, Stathis suggested we have guided bike rides, XC skiing, and snowshoeing, etc.

Adjournment

Lathrop moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Wiesner.
Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.