



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

17 December 2013

### Attendees:

Chairman	Paul Funch	X
Members:	David Burnham	X
	Wendy Good	X
	Olin Lathrop	X
	Stephen Legge	
	David Minott	X
	Jim Molaskey	
	David Pitkin	
	Scott Stathis	X(Recorder)
	John Wiesner	
	Joachim Preiss	X

### Visitors:

Bruce Easom  
Greg Premru  
Will Premru

### Call to Order

At 7:37 p.m., Chairman Paul Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members and guests present on a snowy Tuesday evening.

### Approval of Minutes

Wendy Good moved to accept the minutes of 17 November 2013; Dave B. seconded; approved by unanimous vote.

Unanimous approval of Wendy Good's cookies!

### Reports

Guided hikes:

David M reported that 13 Guided hikes were held in 2013 with 179 total participants. This compares to 8 guided hikes in 2012. Much of the increase was due to Olin Lathrop's leadership of these hikes.

Upcoming hikes reported on by Olin L.:

- 1) Wharton Plantation – Sun., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>
- 2) J Harry Rich State Forest – Sat., Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>? (Date tentative)
- 3) Groton Place to Surrenden Farm - Saturday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>? (Date tentative)

Johnston Conservation Area bridge project:

Olin L reported that bridge over Johnston parcel ditch was completed successfully on Dec 8th for a total cost of \$199.87 (13 cents under budget!).

Brown Ln. (Watson Way CA) to Corwin easement (to Cox-Walker) trail:

Wendy G. reported that trail has been flagged and boundaries have been noted. Conservation Commission will do site walk on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>.

Williams Barn trail to Chicopee Row:

Paul F. reported that the trail development has been approved by Conservation Commission.

Mr. Mapper (MRPC):

Paul F demonstrated how this could be a helpful tool to explore public trails in the Montachusett region. Has a good mobile interface. This could also be used by the Trails Committee, in place of the current interactive mapping application, to provide the public with smartphone guided access to Groton's trails.

Offer to meet with Stewardship Committee of GCT:

Paul F. reported that GCT would like to meet with the Trails Committee to discuss our Memorandum of Understanding on Monday Dec 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Objective is for the Trails Committee to be able to do basic maintenance on CGT trails without asking permission for every maintenance event. This would not be an official town meeting and the Trails Committee would not be looking for a quorum.

NE Power property near Route 119 and Sandy Pond Road:

Olin L. has attempted to find the appropriate person to talk to about what their plans and objectives are for the property and to discuss if we can help maintain the trails. He has not had success yet but will continue his pursuit.

## **Discussions**

Eagle Scout project opportunities:

Will Premru is going for the rank of Eagle Scout and is willing to help the Trails Committee with an appropriate project that will allow him to earn this rank. The committee discussed a variety of projects that Will could be involved with that the committee has identified. Paul will send project list to Will who will review the list to determine which would be most applicable for approval and achievement of Eagle Scout ranking. An additional project offered for his consideration was to have Will identify points of interest in Groton as part of a trail signage project.

Freedom's Way "Trails Day(s)" Pilot – soliciting "experiences":

Paul F. reported on this initiative discussed at the December meeting of the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition. Freedom's Way is looking to inspire and promote regularly scheduled trail day experiences across the region. We could participate by planning events in Groton.

Signage plan:

Olin presented pictures of many signs on trails across the country. It seems signs that were plain routed wood lag bolted into posts weathered best. These also seems to be the types of signs most in line with the committee's aesthetic vision.

#### Project planning for 2014

- a) Bridge in Wharton Plantation – Olin L. proposed building a bridge across a water crossing off of Dan Parker Rd. Dave M made a motion that Olin will propose a bridge like the one that was just installed on the Johnston parcel to NEFF. Scott S. seconded the motion and the committee voted unanimously to approve.
- b) Build out trail points of interest and multi-use guide – Scott S. briefly reinforced the vision of indentifying points of interest in Groton and creating named loops that connect to these areas. These would be enhanced with trail signs and online identifiers. Paul F. reminded the committee that any sign installations would have to be approved by landowners.
- c) Trails at Surrenden and the General Field – The committee discussed the need for these trails to be mowed to a height conducive to hiking. Dave B. agreed to do the mowing.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:34 p.m.