** Monthly Meeting Minutes **
18 March 2014

Attendees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Paul Funch</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Joachim Preiss</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Members:</td>
<td>David Burnham</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wendy Good</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Olin Lathrop</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stephen Legge</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Minott</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jim Molaskey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Pitkin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scott Stathis</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Wiesner</td>
<td>(Recorder)</td>
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Visitors:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Easom</td>
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<td>Helene Cahen</td>
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Call to Order
At 7:38 pm, Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with a quorum of committee members present.

Approval of Minutes
Stathis moved to accept the minutes of the 18 February 2014 meeting. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Reports
a) Lathrop reported 19 people participated in the guided hike held on 16 March at Williams Barn/Sorhaug Woods. Conditions were reported as cold and icy.
b) Upcoming Guided Hikes:
   - Lathrop will lead on 13 April, 1PM at Throne.
   - Minott will lead on 4 May, 1PM at Gamlin Indian Rock/Boulders Trails.
   - Lathrop will lead on 18 May, 1PM at Groton Town Forest.
   - Lathrop will lead on 22 June, 1PM at Rocky Hill Sanctuary and adjoining woodlands.
   - Lathrop guided hikes are joint sponsored by GTC & AMC.
c) Funch reported Will Premru’s Eagle Scout Project of building a bog bridge at Gibbet Hill is ready for action steps. Approval from landowner is necessary, as well as a design plan and RDA being filed. Stathis and Lathrop considered working with Premru.
d) Lathrop reported the NEFF’s Wharton Plantation bridge project RDA has been filed. Site walk scheduled by the Conservation Commission for 22 March. Approval will be sought at the Conservation Commission meeting on 25 March. One suggestion from the Conservation Commission was to use solid concrete or granite blocks, but not cinder blocks which disintegrate.
e) Lathrop announced a forestry management-type course offered in Petersham by the UMASS Keystone project. More details on the specifics of the course will be forthcoming.
f) Funch and Wiesner reported on their successful completion of Chainsaw Safety for Trail Stewards on 15 & 16 March. The course was led by Northeast Forest and Fire Management LLC and sponsored through DCR. Lathrop moved to reimburse Funch and Wiesner's $25 course fees. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

g) Funch & Legge recommended the Sustainable Trails For All conference being offered in June. Funch & Legge attended a conference last year held by the same organization.

h) Funch reported the State Trails Conference will be held 8 November 2014. The conference may be at a new location in Leominster, or return to Devens. Funch will keep us posted about signing up.

Discussions
a) Burnham proposed having Guided Mountain Bike Tours every other Thursday evening. Advanced/Intermediate level will be recommended. Dates TBD when weather is suitable. NEMBA/GTC joint sponsorship is being considered.

b) Funch led discussion on Freedom's Way "Trails Day" in Groton in May 2015. The Committee was favorable to having connecting guided hikes/bikes. Sunday, 31 May 2015 was an agreed upon date for the event.

c) Funch led discussion on Groton Conservation Trust MOA for trail clearing assistance and liability. The discussion brought forth the difficulty in assuring all volunteers could sign a waiver. Another option was having only safety-certified sawyers and GTC members allowed to do clearing; however, this limits willing helpers.

d) Funch mentioned a Girl Scout named Julia is proposing a Town Forest kiosk project. Details forthcoming.

e) Funch said Preiss was concerned about trail damage from loggers on Baddacook trail. Helene Easom suggested re-connecting a former loop trail at Baddacook.

f) Bruce Easom said Rail-to-Trail project in West Groton is likely to go through.

Adjournment
Lathrop moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Burnham. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.
Meeting was adjourned at 9:44 pm.