



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes

15 July 2014, Legion Hall

Attendees:

Chairman	Paul Funch	X
Vice Chair		
Members:	Dave Burnham	X
	Wendy Good	X
	Olin Lathrop	recorder
	Stephen Legge	
	Dave Minott	
	Jim Molaskey	
	David Pitkin	X
	Scott Stathis	X
	John Wiesner	X

Visitors:

Bruce Easom

The meeting was called to order at 19:34.

The 17 June minutes were approved unanimously.

Olin reported upcoming hikes: Sunday 27 Jul 13:00, Wharton Plantation, Forestry educational hike. Sunday 14 Sep 13:00, Wharton Plantation starting at Dan Parker road. Sunday 12 Oct 13:00, starting at Williams Barn, hopefully using some of the new trails in Cox/Walker and Sorhaug Woods.

Discussion was held regarding Will Premru's revised eagle scout project for a trail entrance on Paugus Trail (which is a road) into the Groton Woods conservation area.

Paul reported that all the bog bridges on the Bruce Clements Trail have been completed, in large part due to the efforts of Joachim Preiss.

Paul reported that Jim Desrosiers of Raddin Road donated additional "Trex" composite wood/plastic decking. This time the pieces were longer, up to 10 feet. This will be useful material for bog bridges.

Paul reported that the ConCom had approved the proposed bog bridge in the GCT Crystal Spring property. This will provide an alternative to walking over a beaver dam. Dave Minott is leading this effort.

Paul reported that a new trail has been built all the way from the turnaround at the end of Watson Way, Past the end of Brown Lane, thru a piece of the ConCom Cox/Walker property, connecting up to an existing trail and easment on the Corwin/Miner property. Paul has also flagged a new trail that will connect Cox/Walker to the McClains Woods parcel.

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Paul reported that a new trail has been built from behind Williams Barn, northeast, then to Chicopee Row via an easement between two houses. This comes out across the street from the Cox/Walker property, with the intent to build a connecting trail there later this year.

Discussion was held regarding Alexander Jeffrey's proposed eagle scout project of building a kiosk, picnic table, and benches behind Williams Barn.

Paul reported mowing trails in a number of areas: Still Meadow, Scarlet Hill, Groton Hills, McLains's Woods field, Johnston, Wharton Planatation, Hurd, Williams Barn, and the Middle School cross country trail.

Dave Burnham reported a tree in Flavel Crossing is leaning across the trail, and that one bridge in Wharton Plantation east of Old Dunstable Road may need some work.

Scott reported: The Town Forest trails are generally in good shape, and that he recently cleared a few trees. The Taisy CR trail is in good shape, with a tree recently cleared near Long Hill Road, and other trees cleared near the Patridgeberry Woods subdivision. One tree in Lawrence Woods and one in Hayes Woods need to be cleared with a chainsaw. John W volunteered to help Scott with this.

Olin reported that the trails between Orion Way and Hidden Valley Road (Batten Woods) are in good shape.

Dave Pitkin reported: Kemp Woods trails are in good shape, including the boardwalk. Some trash dumping was found in the Squannacook/Bertozzi area, and the ConCom has been notified. A no trespassing sign near the northern end of the old B+M right of way, by Fitch's Bridge, gives the wrong impression to hikers. The sign is technically on private land, but is also where the trail is currently routed. A rope ladder was removed from Fitch's Bridge. The trail between Spencer Circle and the Senior Center is poorly marked.

Trail markings north of the Senior Center, and trail marking philosophy in general, was dicussed.

Dave Pitkin reported on software named "Strava" that allows very easy uploading of GPS tracks from certain devices into OpenStreetmap. Dave also demonstrated some of the OpenStreetmap capabilities.

Olin reported that he met with Paul Jussaume at Nashoba Tech about having trails signs made. Paul liked the idea, and was supposed to get prices to Olin. No information has been received yet, and Paul is currently on vacation.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:40 by unanimous vote.