



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****

17 February 2015

Legion Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Chairman	Paul Funch	X
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop	X
Members	David Burnham	Recorder
	Wendy Good	
	Stephen Legge	X
	David Minott	X
	Jim Molaskey	X
	David Pitkin	
	Jason Remillard	X
	Scott Stathis	
	John Wiesner	

Visitors:

Bruce Easom

Call to Order

At 7:49 p.m. Chairman Paul Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members present.

Approval of Minutes

Jim Molaskey moved to accept the minutes of January 2015; David Burnham seconded; approved by unanimous vote.

Reports

- a) The McLain's Woods hike was cancelled due to poor weather.
- b) Planned future hikes:
 - 3/15 Skinner Forest, GTC/AMC and co-sponsored by Groton Reads, 1pm, Olin Lathrop
 - 4/12 Groton Hills, GTC/AMC, 1pm, Olin Lathrop
 - 4/19 Throne Hill, GTC and co-sponsored by Groton Reads, 1pm, Dave Minott
 - 6/7 Gamlin Indian Rock and Boulder trails, GTC, 1pm, Dave Minott

Discussions

- a) Election of Vice Chairman. Motion was made by Jim Molaskey and seconded by David Burnham to make Olin Lathrop the Vice Chairman of the Trails Committee. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- b) Ayer's Connecting Communities Event. GTC is in favor of supporting the Town of Ayer's Freedom Way hike on the Nashua River Rail Trail as the hike will extend into Groton. Olin Lathrop made the motion to co-sponsor the hike, Steve Legge seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

- c) Groton Conservation Forum. Paul Funch and Olin Lathrop attended. Both thought it went well. Some things discussed at the forum:
 - i) Talk of volunteers. To make information available for all work being done by the various town committees readily accessible to potential volunteers.
 - ii) Invasive species. Possibly to form a committee for the management and removal of invasive species from both blue (rivers, brooks, etc.) and green (land) trails.
- d) Groton's Connecting Communities Event. "Gifts from the Glaciers." GTC will be involved in most aspects of the Freedom's Way Trail Day being held in Groton on 5/31. Olin and Paul will be on-hand for the morning and afternoon guided hikes and David B. will be leading the morning and afternoon mountain bike rides as both a member of GTC and Wachusett NEMBA.
- e) Town report. Steve Ledge filed said report and did his usual great job at it.
- f) Gibbet Hill trail bridge. Bruce Easom filled us in on the ongoing effort to build a bridge over the low wet area of the trail in the saddle between the peaks. Bruce shared some images of the bridge design, approximate cost, and various other considerations.
- g) Squannacook River Rail Trail. Bruce informed the committee that the lease for the Squannacook River Rail Trail has been signed.
- h) Trail signs. As of February, the signs haven't come in yet but Olin is hoping to have samples in-hand for the March meeting.
- i) Nashua River Accessible Trail. Paul has sent in the Recreational Trails Program grant application. Finances of the RTP are in question and grant money might not be available.
- j) Web site and interactive maps. Jason brought us up to speed on his and David P.'s recent improvements to the interactive maps.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:30 p.m. Right on time.