



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

** Monthly Meeting Minutes **

June 16, 2015

Attendees:

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

Visitors

Jenn Jones (DFW)
Mary Metzger
Alan and Darcy Donald
Joanie Caruso

Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m. Chairman Paul Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members present.

Approval of Minutes

By unanimous vote, the minutes of May 15, 2015 were approved.

Reports

Past hikes

May 31st Connecting Communities (MRTC and Freedom's Way) hikes and bike rides went on despite rainy weather. Dave B had two on the advanced bike ride of North Groton area. Olin lead a morning hike from Town Forest to Town Hall and an afternoon hike from Gibbet Hill to Williams Barn with 11 (6 in the am & 5 in the pm) participants. Paul and Dave M led a hike from Town Hall to Gibbet Hill and back with 2 participants.

June 14th Olin lead a Surrenden Farm hike along the river with 23 hikers. It was noted that the kiosk there is in bad shape. Dave M volunteered to talk to Takashi since it is on Conservation Commission land.

Planned hikes

Dave M will lead a hike of Gamlin Indian Rock and Boulder trails June 21st at 1pm. The Connecting Communities event on June 27th will hike the Nashua River Rail Trail from Ayer to Groton School Pond and back at 2pm.

Groton River Festival

Olin reported the Greenways River Festival was well attended and they were able to add 24 names to the email list.

Misc

Jim Desrosiers was thanked for his donation of Trex boards and was provided with a letter

acknowledging his donation for tax purposes.

Chris Bussiere has expressed interest in joining this Committee.

The town has provided the names of six seniors who expressed interest in helping to maintain trails. Meredith Scarlett has been talking to the Conservation Commission about improving the trail along Martins Pond Road, which may include a bridge over the stream. Paul is organizing a site walk with Meredith, Bruce Easom, and Dave P.

Discussions

Trail planning

Jenn Jones from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife presented useful information on turtle behavior and conservation. Jenn left us information on trail planning with wildlife in mind. She emphasized not crossing or bisecting turtle migration areas and vernal pool clusters.

Eagle Scout projects

Paul reported that Eagle Scout Alex Platt is searching for a site for his ground mounted tree house viewing platform. He has completed site walks on Cox-Walker, Hawtree, and Shattuck Homestead Conservation Commission land. Alex also looked at Gamlin Picnic Site and Wattles Pond, which are Groton Conservation Trust parcels. Paul and Matthew Amadon (Willard Brook State Park Supervisor) did a preliminary walk of DCR's Rich State Forest, which has a beautiful spot on the Nashua River. Matt will pursue getting permission from his DCR supervisor for this project. Olin reported Will Premru got a negative determination for the RDA he submitted to the Conservation Commission for his trail from Paugus Trail into the Groton Woods Conservation Area.

Blackman Trail

David P reported that the waypoints for the CR trail from Indian Hill Road along the Blackman northern property boundary has been flagged. At present it is a dead end trail but could potentially connect to the Hurd Conservation Land. However, Lotz or Hurd would need to give permission to cross their short bit of land. The Blackman land is presently for sale and Blackmans would like trail completed before the land is sold.

Trail Maintenance

Dave M did a major trail clearing off Skyfields Drive to the Wiewel Conservation Land. The Temples had reported the entrance impassible. Discussion ensued as to how to make a connecting trail around Dan Emerson's house to the power lines and Nate Nutting Road.

Paul reported we need to mark and clear the old railroad bed off Spencer Circle so people do not use the private drive. Discussion concluded we need to get Tom Delaney's approval for where to put our posts to direct people to the trail from Hill Rd.

Paul reported the NEFF 2015 waivers for the Trail Committee members was submitted.

Olin reported that nine trail signs are on order.

Paul reported the ten year old brush mower was not working and we are waiting for Peter Morrison to get it repaired. Mowing will start as soon as it is fixed.

Surrenden Field needs to be mowed to direct people from going on private land and to follow state CR trail plan.

Adjournment

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