



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **15 September 2015**

Attendees:

Chairman	Paul Funch	X
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop	X
Members	David Burnham	
	Wendy Good	X(recorder)
	Stephen Legge	
	David Minott	X 9pm
	David Pitkin	X
	Jason Remillard	X
	Chris Bussiere	X

Visitors:

Steve Henderson

Call to Order

At 7:33 p.m. Chairman Paul Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members present.

Approval of Minutes

Pitkin moved to accept the minutes of August 18, 2015 with spelling changes; Good seconded; approved by unanimous vote with Lathrop abstaining.

Reports

- a) Guided Hikes: Four are planned:
 - 9/20 with AMC 1:00pm Johnson and Hayes conservation area lead by Lathrop
 - 10/11 also with AMC 1:00pm Harry Rich Forest lead by Lathrop
 - 11/1 1:00pm Gamlin Indian Rock lead by Minott
 - 12/06 Gamlin Esker trail 1:00pm lead by Minott
- b) Trail Maintenance plans. Wattles Pond 9/26, Harry Rich 10/3 and Blackman 10/10
- c) Eagle Scout Projects :
 - Will Premru: Trail at Paugus Trail in Groton Woods - no report
 - Alex Platt: Observation Deck in Harry Rich held up by engineering approval sign off. Christine Berry has RDA with town Conservation Commission.
- d) Nashua River Accessible Trail. Funch reported the matching funds required by the state grant will be matched by CPA money and volunteer labor. He has sent out bids to 12 local contractors. Holly Jarek of Seven Hills has offered a handicap picnic table donation of \$1,000. Cannot do the contractor work until after Nov 1st. All need to come to work day 8am Oct 3rd when trail will be cleared and raked.
- e) Lathrop reported nine signs were ordered May 20th. Finally, a phone message saying that the order has been sent to the MA prison sign shop was received two days ago. Hopefully, we will receive the aluminum signs in the near future.

- f) ADA self-evaluation of the accessibility of open space and recreation parcels. Mr. Jim Lyons from a private non-profit came to help the town evaluate how accessible our conservation and recreation properties are. A number of properties were evaluated, including Town Forest, Fairgrounds, Sabine Woods, Surrenden Farm, Rich State Forest, Bates-Blackman, and Blackman bells.
- g) Grotonfest booth staffing and logistics were discussed. Many people will be away, leaving only Lathrop and Remillard to take on set up, staffing, and removal of the booth.

Discussions

- a) Steve Henderson gave us some background on his trail usage and interests. The Trails Committee recommended Henderson for Trails Committee membership.
- b) Remillard reported he has updated the map. He asked for photos and ideas on what we want to see on the map. The top places to hike should be written for the next meeting without a standard format and then we can decide what needs to be included. The problem of private trails and whether they should be shown and how noted as private is still outstanding.

Lathrop proposed a new loop trail in Lost Lake area around Duck Pond Rd and Forest Rd on Conservation Commission land. An RDA would be required for it is near wetlands. Most felt this is a low priority trail but the majority of members liked the proposal. However, without the full board present, Lathrop wanted more input before he proceeds.
- c) Lathrop had contacted MA Fish and Wildlife's Jen Jones about a bridge that appeared on the Surrenden Farm property, on which the state holds a CR. This bridge is near the Nashua River at the drainage ditch where no trail is recognized by DFW. The state demands that the bridge be removed. It is a very nice bridge so a discussion ensued about the possibility of moving the bridge to reuse it elsewhere.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:25 p.m.