



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
(978) 448-1111
FAX: (978) 448-1115



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **20 October 2015**

Attendees:

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

Visitors:

Helene Cahen
Paul Barstow
Emma Newman
Tim Newman

Call to Order

At 7:30 p.m. Chairman Paul Funch called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Olin moved to accept the minutes of August 18, 2015; David P. seconded; approved unanimously.

Reports

a) Guided Hikes

Completed Hikes

10/11 J. Harry Rich State Forest - GTC/AMC, 1:00pm, Olin, 35 hikers

Planned Hikes

11/1 Gamlin Indian Rock and Boulder Trails - GTC, 1:00pm, Dave M.

12/6 Gamlin Esker Trail - GTC, 1:00pm, Dave M.

b) Trail Maintenance Reports

Nashua River Accessible Trail. Great work was done by 25 people preparing the trail surface and corridor for Ream Landscaping to lay the trail tread. Work by Ream is to start early November.

Blackman Trail. A new trail was put in off of Indian Hill Rd. The trail is to be marked by the Groton Conservation Trust.

Volunteer hours for 2015 to date are 312, 169 of which were done by GTC members.

c) Eagle Scout Projects

1- Will Premu, Paugus Trail. The corridor has been cleared. Paul Funch gave Will a small punch list of things to do to make the trail more user friendly.

2-Alex Platt, observation deck. Some small set-backs have Alex looking for other areas to install an observation deck. Complications with local building codes are also a factor.

3- Ben Hauk, bridges. Selecting intermittent streams in McLain's Woods to build bridges over.

d) Sign Project Update

The signs are in the process of being made at a local correctional facility.

e) Chainsaw Safety Course; MA Trails Conference

Trail committee members were made aware of the upcoming chainsaw safety course. Members were urged to take the course whereas chainsaws cannot be used without first taking said course. The MA Trails Conference was also brought up. Committee members who had attended in the past said that it is a very informative event. Anyone interested in all aspects of trails is encouraged to attend.

f) Grotonfest and Groton Town Forest Trail Race Recaps

Grotonfest was handled by Jason, Olin, and Wendy. Other committee members weren't available to attend. Next year we need to have more help available as we have in the past. The Groton Town Forest Trail Race had a strong presence of committee members on hand to help with the race. It was a beautiful day for a trail race even with a couple flurries. All who entered had a great time, many remarking on what a beautiful trail system the Groton Town Forest has.

Discussions

a) Helene Cahen - Trail Access to Skitapet

Helene had a question regarding access to the Skitapet Conservation Land via the end of Fir Rd. The Groton Conservation Trust was asked and said that the trails are to be accessed from behind the fire station or from the back of the field at the Mountain Lakes Club.

b) Recommendation for Trails Committee Membership

Three excellent candidates for membership met with the trails committee. Paul Barstow, Emma Newman, and Tim Newman all showed great interest in joining and helping out. The committee unanimously passed a motion to recommend that Paul Barstow be appointed to the committee. Emma and Tim were encouraged to attend meetings and to help wherever they can and they indicated they were willing to do so.

c) Groton Woods Trail Proposal

Olin is looking see if a new trail in Groton Woods is feasible. The trail would run from the intersection of Forest Rd. and Duck Pond Rd. to the trail system and would connect with other trails in the Groton Woods Conservation area, making for a longer wooded loop. It is currently considered low priority. It was suggested that Olin mark the proposed trail route and that the Trails Committee have a site walk before making any recommendation to the Conservation Commission.

d) Website and Mapping Progress

David P. reported that through his work to make things simpler a savings could be had for the yearly cost of the website. We have a new email address, Trails@townofgroton.org, that will be in effect as of 12/15/15.

The online trail map is still a work in progress. David P and Jason R. continue to make the map more user friendly. Olin is working on verifying the length and locations of many of the trails.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Olin, 2nd by David P., and approved unanimously at 9:30 p.m. Right on time.