



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

** Monthly Meeting Minutes **

January 19, 2016

Attendees:

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

Visitors:

None

Call to Order

Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members present at 7:35 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A draft of the December 2015 minutes has not yet been distributed to members for review (Remillard)

Reports/Old Business

a) Guided Hikes: Minott reported on completed and planned hikes:

1) Completed Hikes

- 12/20 - Town Forest trails – GTC/AMC led by Olin Lathrop. – 19 hikers
- 1/10 - Rocky Hill Sanctuary – GTC/AMC led by Olin Lathrop (cancelled due to rain)

2) Planned Future Hikes:

- 2/14 – The Throne – GTC/AMC 1:00 PM, Olin
- 3/13 – McLain’s Woods – GTC/AMC, 1:00 PM, Olin
- 4/10 – Brook’s Orchard/Sorhaug Woods – GTC/AMC, 1:00 PM, Olin
- 5/15 – Rocky Hill Sanctuary – GTC/AMC, 1:00 PM, Olin

Minott said the committee led 17 public hikes and bike rides in 2015. 279 participated in these events, the most for one year since the program was begun in 2008. The committee commended Lathrop and Minott (and in earlier years Alan Taylor) for their commitment and consistency in presenting these programs over the years.

Pitkin reported the Groton Conservation Trust is beginning its own public hike program and expects to schedule them on the first Sunday of every month starting in February 2016.

b) Trail Maintenance/Signage:

Lathrop reported on nails, grommets and attachment issues for the newly designed signs made late last year. There are now nine signs to install. There was discussion about where on other trails the next batch of signs might go.

c) Current Eagle Scout Projects (3):

- 1) Alex Platt – Observation Deck, Hawtree Trail: Funch reported that work was well underway, but it was not clear what the state of completion was. The site is a dramatic and great site for viewing.
- 2) Will Premru – Paugus Trail Head: Funch reported installation was complete and the trail ready to use.
- 3) Ben Hauk – Two Bridges in McLain’s Woods: Funch reported both bridges are completed.

Letters of acknowledgment and appreciation have been drafted for the Eagle Scout candidates with completed projects and are in the process of being signed by members.

Action Item: Pitkin will take responsibility to expedite the signing of the letters by remaining members.

d) Website and Mapping Status:

Lathrop reported his progress mapping and transferring GPS files to the grotontrails.org website for the J. Harry Rich State Forest. He is using the “Open Streets Maps” software suite for his work, and also a measuring wheel to verify distances on his GPS tracks.

Discussions and New Business:

a) 2015 Annual Report Draft

Legge handed out a draft of the annual report for last year’s work. He proposed to make the John Tinker Trail, our newly developed accessible trail along the Nashua River, completed in December, the featured project for the report. The committee consented to this approach. Several suggestions were made for additional entries to the report.

b) Groton Conservation Summit

The second Annual Groton Conservation Summit will be held this year on February 3rd at Lawrence Academy. Its purpose is to allow conservation oriented groups in town to share information and perspectives and to network. The members informally approved topics to be presented on behalf of the Trails Committee by Paul Funch.

c) Priorities for 2016:

- Funch reported on the status of the Chamberlain’s Mill property (Water Department)
- Funch reported on the Freedom’s Way organization’s efforts to put together a new event called “Hidden Treasures” where various towns in the region will highlight and show for the public their more special places. It is scheduled for the week beginning Saturday, May 14th and ending Sunday, May 22nd.

d) Purchase of Cargo Trailer for Tools:

Barstow presented the results of some research he had done on tool trailers to replace our old “retired” tool trailer. There was some discussion of size and weight tradeoffs. It seems new trailers (aluminum bodies) cost in the range of \$3,000 to \$4,000.

e) Remaining Recorder Assignments:

- February - Lathrop
- March - Barstow
- April - Pitkin
- May - Henderson
- June - Good
- July - Bussiere

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:04 PM.