



TOWN OF GROTON  
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Groton Trails Committee  
 \*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*  
 March 15, 2016

**Attendees:**

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

**Visitors:**

Emma Newman  
 Tim Newman

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve December 2015 minutes passed by unanimous vote.  
 Motion to approve January 2015 minutes passed by unanimous vote.

**Announcement of Resignation:** Steve Henderson

**Announcement of New Appointed Member:** Emma Newman

**Reports/Old Business**

**a) Guided Hikes**

Minott reported on completed and planned hikes:

Completed Hikes:

2/14 – The Throne – Cancelled because of extreme cold.

3/13 – McLain’s Woods– GTC/AMC led by Olin Lathrop, 27 hikers.

Planned Future Hikes:

4/10 – Brooks Orchards/Sorhaug Woods– GTC/AMC 1:00 PM, Olin

Other Future Activities:

Future hikes involving GTC are planned as part of Freedom’s Way’s Hidden Treasures program.

**b) Trail Maintenance/Signage**

- 1) Lathrop reported he bought new sign hardware. Discussed advantages of new system using grommets and stainless steel screws. Lathrop gave operational demonstration of new hardware. Committee signed Lathrop's receipts.
- 2) Lathrop reported and displayed his new mileage chart.
- 3) Lathrop made a motion to approve signs for Hazel Grove. Minott seconded and motion was passed by unanimous vote.
- 4) Damaged bridge in Groton Conservation Trust's Sabine Woods was discussed. Minor injury suffered by hiker who fell through hole in bridge. Photos shown confirmed repairs are needed and they will be planned shortly. Burnham offered his assistance to Funch and also offered the use of his cordless circular saw.

**c) Eagle Scout Projects**

- 1) Alex Platt – Observation Deck on Hawtree Trail nearly completed. Photos shown of progress.
- 2) Discussion of 3 other scout projects that have been proposed.

**d) Groton Conservation Summit Review**

- 1) For next year, Lathrop suggested that each organization present only a snapshot of their past year's achievements. This to be followed by a small number of individual breakout sessions.
- 2) Minott suggested a format allowing "group roaming" to occur.

**e) "Hidden Treasures" Planning**

- 1) Webpage <http://freedomsway.org/projects/treasures.html> was discussed.
- 2) Groton selected hikes were shown and discussed.

**f) Cargo Trailer Specification Review and Purchase Recommendation**

- 1) Funch recommended purchasing the 6x10 V nose all-aluminum cargo trailer.
- 2) Committee discussed adding an E-track system and supported that option.
- 3) Lathrop made a motion to buy a trailer for the estimated price of \$4000 and then donate the trailer to the town. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**g) Website and Mapping Status**

- 1) Remillard reported technical issues caused the committee website map to crash.
- 2) Lathrop stated he was preparing updates for tracks and photos.
- 3) Funch made request to committee members to provide more content (examples: top 10 places, animals seen, etc.)

**Discussion/New Business**

**a) Gamlin Crystal Springs Conservation Area**

- 1) Discussion of Bob Gamlin's interest in a trail to a spring on the land he donated.
- 2) Minott reported on conversations with Landowner and Mark Gerath of the Trust.
- 3) Minott reported the Trust did not approve the trail initially proposed.
- 4) Committee felt the trail now being considered by the Trust would be acceptable.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:27 PM.