



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****

April 19, 2016

Attendees:

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

Visitors:

None

1. Call to Order

Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members present at 7:30 PM.

2. Reports/Old Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Olin moved to approve the minutes of March 15, 2016; David P. seconded; approved unanimously with one abstention from Steven Legge.

b) Pending appointment of new member: Tim Newman

Funch reported that he recommended to the Town Manager to appoint Tim Newman to the opening on the Trails Committee after the resignation of Chris Bussiere.

Olin moved to appoint Emma Newman as Secretary of the Trails Committee; David P. seconded; approved unanimously.

c) Cargo Trailer Purchase

The new cargo trailer has been purchased. It has been registered by the Town, has a two inch ball hitch and will be stored at Paul Funch's residence.

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

Completed Hikes

- 4/10 Brooks Orchard/Sorhaug Woods – GTC/AMC, 1:00 PM, Olin – 15 hikers

Planned Future Hikes:

- 5/14 Rich State Forest – GTC, 12:00 PM, Paul
- (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/15 Rocky Hill Sanctuary – GTC/AMC/Freedom's Way, 1:00 PM, Olin
- (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/15 Gibbet Hill – GTC, 5:00 PM, Paul
- (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/18 John Tinker Trail – GTC, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Paul
- (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/18 Groton Town Forest – Guided Bike – GTC, 5:30 PM, Dave B.
- (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/22 Gamlin Indian Rock/Boulders Trails – GTC/GCT, 1:00 PM, Dave M.
- (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/22 Multiple Groton Trails – Guided Bike – GTC, 8:30 AM, Dave B.
- (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 6/5 Gamlin Esker Trail – GTC, 1:00 PM, Dave M.
- 6/12 General Field/Surrenden Farm – GTC/AMC, 1:00 PM, Olin

e) Eagle Scout project Status

Unknown status of Alex Platt's observation deck at Hawtree Parcel. No other projects have had activity.

f) Trail Maintenance project and signage

Lathrop reported that 11 signs are now up at Williams Barn area. Discussion of next area to have signs: Hazel Grove and Taisey Conservation Land.

g) "Hidden Treasures" (5/14-22 planning)

Discussion about bus availability for Geology Tour. Reservation has been placed with MRTC for the Trolley. Funch indicated that there was a \$250 dollar grant for transportation available he would apply for. An additional \$100 to cover the entire costs would perhaps be needed.

Pitkin moved to appropriate \$100 from the Friends of Groton Trails Account for Geology Trolley; Seconded by Lathrop; approved unanimously.

h) Website and Mapping Status:

Lathrop donated over 150 images he has taken in Groton to be used on the Trails Website and other marketing activities.

3. Discussions and New Business:

a) Key Events Schedule

2016 Trails Committee Schedule of Events			
<u>Event</u>		<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Nashua River Rail Trail Clean-up		30-Apr	10:00-1:00
Hidden Treasures			
	Geology Tour	14-May	9:00-11:00
	Nashoba Paddler & Greenway Committee	14-May	9:30-6:30
	Rich SF Hike	14-May	12:00-2:00
	Rocky Hill Hike	15-May	1:00-3:00
	Gifts of the Glaciers presentation	15-May	3:30-5:00
	Gibbet Hill Hike	15-May	5:00-6:30
	John Tinker Trail Walks	18-May	12:00-4:00
	Town Forest Mountain Bike	18-May	5:30-7:00
	Geology Tour	21-May	12:00-2:00
	Gamlin Crystal Spring Hike	22-May	1:00-3:00
	Groton Trails Mountain Bike (Advanced)	22-May	8:30-1:00
Greenway Festival		19-Jun	9:00-4:00
Grotonfest		10-Sep??	9:00-5:00
Town Forest Trail Races		16-Oct	9:00-3:00

Funch will not be in town for the Greenway River Festival but will put required items in the new Cargo Trailer for usage at the event. Lathrop to be point person for event logistics and asked that the Invasive Species Committee could share table space at event. Pitkin confirmed the Trails Committee participation on May 19, 2016 with Greenway Committee.

b) Taisey Parcel trail markers

Covered in discussion about Trail Maintenance

c) Chamberlains Mill trail access

Funch reported that the proposed cul-de-sac trail easement for access from the new development at Chamberlain Mills was not on the recorded plans. This leaves the only potential public access from Route 40 and Martins Pond Road. There seemed to be some confusion about access being allowed near the proposed protected well site between the Water Superintendent and the Planning Board.

d) Priorities for 2016:

Pitkin reported about a potential project repairing wash boarding erosion on the Red Line Path as it has become difficult for walkers and more attractive to motorized activity. Trails committee was supportive of the project on Groton Conservation Trust land but felt it was beyond manual volunteer labor and that mechanized heavy equipment would be required.

David Pitkin left at 8:26pm, Emma Newman replaced Pitkin as recorder.

Funch and Lathrop discussed John Tinker Trail as still in planning.

Funch and Lathrop discussed NEFF Wharton Plantation parking area improvements and confirmed discussions still underway on options. Proposed movement of trail head to road junction and parking options should consider all parking at all trail heads.

Steve Legge left at 9:04pm

Funch and Lathrop discussed Paquawket Path; recognized it seems it is not being used much.

Lathrop presented photo water level of Groton Hills trail, Lathrop proposed water crossing bridge similar to Wharton Plantation Bridge, and Bog Bridge similar to Williams Barn Bog Bridge. Discussion that due to narrow trail any bridge placed there would prohibit horses using the trail. Proposal to restrict as a no horse trail, horses could use alternative route. Concern raised by Lathrop that alternate route may be too steep for horses, Emma Newman and Tim Newman will assess alternate route suitability for horses.

4. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:21pm