



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\***

**May 17, 2016**

Attendees:			Visitors:
Chairman	Paul Funch	X	
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop	X	
Members	Paul Barstow	X	
	David Burnham		
	Wendy Good	X	
	Stephen Legge		
	David Minott	X	
	Emma Newman (Recorder)	X	
	Timothy Newman	X	
	David Pitkin	X	
	Jason Remillard	X	

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members present at 7:31 PM.

### **2. Reports/Old Business**

#### **a) Approval of Minutes**

Lathrop moved to approve the minutes of April 19, 2016; Minott seconded;

- Approved by majority: Newman E, Newman T, Funch, Barstow, Lathrop, Minott
- Abstentions: Remillard, Good
- Against vote: Pitkin

#### **b) New Committee Member: Timothy Newman**

Newman T confirmed he had sworn in.

#### **c) Resignation: David Minott**

Funch notified Committee that Minott had resigned, Funch asked all members present to sign a certificate recognizing 9 years of membership.

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**d) Guided Hikes:**

Minott and Funch reported on completed and planned hikes:

Completed Hikes

- 5/14 Rich Forest – GTC, 12:00 PM, Paul – 7 Hikers  
– (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/15 Rocky Hill Sanctuary – GTC/AMC/Freedom's Way, 1:00 PM, Olin – 22 Hikers  
– (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/15 Gibbet Hill – GTC, 5:00 PM, Paul – 14 Hikers  
– (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)

Planned Future Hikes:

- 5/18 John Tinker Trail – GTC, 12:00 – 4:00PM, Funch  
– (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/18 Groton Town Forest – Guided Bike – GTC, 5:30PM, Burnham  
– (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/22 Gamlin Indian Rock/Boulders Trails – GTC/GCT, 1:00PM, Minott  
– (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 5/22 Multiple Groton Trails – Guided Bike – GTC, 8:30AM, Burnham  
– (Groton's Hidden Treasures Program)
- 6/5 Gamlin Esker Trail – GTC, 1:00PM, Minott
- 6/12 General Field/Surrenden Farm – GTC/AMC, 1:00 PM, Lathrop

**e) Eagle Scout Project Status**

Brandon Sickles (*spelling unknown*) agreed to repaint existing trail entry signs. Takashi Tada (town conservation administrator) and Funch reviewed signs painted on 17th May by Brandon: 2 in Hawtree, 1 behind town hall (Longley), 2 at McClain's Woods.

**f) Trail Maintenance project and signage**

Lathrop reported he has been working on Hazel Grove trail map sign approx. 3ft by 3ft. Estimated to cost \$100 will be paid for by the Hazel Grove Association. Trails will have annotations on the sign showing at edge of property indication of where trail goes onto beyond property line.

**g) Website and Mapping Status:**

Remillard reported that on that website events page does not get much traffic, but needs to be maintained and facebook events page needs updating. Last update was in 06 Dec 2015. Remillard indicated preference to update facebook events page. Funch reported he updates Facebook newsfeed, and "about Groton" site.

Lathrop asked for volunteers to replace Minott for managing event notifications. Minott advised it requires a level of descriptive editing and keeping to timelines required for newspapers. Barstow indicated interest and will discuss with Minott.

Remillard reported 40% of Website traffic is from outside of Groton, mainly northwest geography.

Lathrop requested for Riverfest for “track my location” to be re-enabled and Remillard reported due to some recent changes it is complex but Remillard will look into options. Funch asked if QR codes are still valid, Pitkin indicated QR codes load to any page and he directed them to Groton Trails home website page. Lathrop discussed option for QR directing direct to Website trail map.

Pitkin recommended Groton trails Map have a legend. Discussion on Bike trails should be clearly marked as Multi use trails.

Whispering Brook trail to Blood Road is shown on Groton Trail Map but Funch reported trail does not exist and on map appears to be on Conservation Land. Funch to look into options to opening the trail

### **3. Discussions and New Business:**

#### **a) Squannacook River Rail Trail**

Funch reported Squannacook River Rail Trail are raising \$150,000 for their River Rail Trail through “Purchase a Brick” scheme. Each engraved brick costs \$150. Funch asked if Groton Trails Committee wanted to purchase a brick.

Lathrop moved a motion to authorize up to \$150 from “Friends of Groton Trails Account” on brick with engraving of “ The Town of Groton Trails Committee”.

Funch moved the motion; Pitkin seconded; Approved unanimously.

#### **b) Purchases and re-imbursement**

Funch bought and request re-imbursement:

- Wheel jack for Trailer \$20.98
- Staple gun and Stainless Staples for tree signs \$28.24
- 4 Tie Downs for trailer \$9.98

Total requested: \$59.10 from “Friends of Groton Trails Account”

Good moved motion to refund Funch; Lathrop second; Approved unanimously.

#### **c) Northwoods Trail**

Funch confirmed signs and posts remain, Good confirmed.

Trail north of Northwood road are accessible only via an easement over driveway, discussion about placement of posts to indicate trail head. Takashi Tada and Funch reviewed site on 16 May 2016.

#### **d) Meeting Time**

Lathrop requested meeting start time move to 7pm opposed to 7.30pm

Lathrop moved motion to start next meeting at 7pm; Barstow seconded; Approved unanimously.

**e) Bridge missing in Groton Place**

Good reported wood bridge missing Groton Place, Dog Park. Unclear of location discussion of damaged bridge previously reported, Pitkin offered to enquire further with contacts in Groton Place Park.

**f) Groton Trails Vision 2014-2016**

Funch explained the Groton trails vision document, Funch recommend that trails listed in the vision plan need sponsors to develop the plans and progress them into viable projects with respective planning processes.

9:16pm Pitkin left the meeting

9:19pm Lathrop left the meeting

Funch recommended all members review the document, Barstow confirmed he would review document for next meeting.

**4. Adjournment**

Motion was placed by Minott to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Remillard; Approved unanimously at 9:38pm,