



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **July 19, 2016**

Attendees:			Visitors:
Chairman	Paul Funch	X	David Minott
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop	X	
Secretary	Emma Newman	X	
<b>Members</b>	Paul Barstow	X	
	David Burnham		
	Wendy Good	X	
	Stephen Legge	x	
	Timothy Newman	x	
	David Pitkin		
	Jason Remillard		

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

Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members present at 7:09pm.

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

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

Lathrop moved to approve the minutes of June 19, 2016; Good seconded the motion.

- approved unanimously:

#### **b) Dave Minott's Farewell**

Funch presented a framed certificate of appreciation. Minott thanked everyone.

Funch asked if Committee knew of anyone interested in joining the Committee, and that public notification will be issued.

*Minott left meeting at 7.22pm*

#### **c) Guided Hikes and Bike Rides**

- **Completed**
  - None completed at this time (norm for July/August)
- **Planned Future:**
  - No new hikes are planned at this time (norm for July/August)

#### **d) Eagle Scout**

Funch went with Eric Huber to view various sites to consider options for Eric's Eagle Scout project. Eric opted for building a stream bridge and bog bridge in the Groton Hills conservation area. Lathrop confirmed he had emailed Eric about required actions for the project.

**e) Trail Maintenance Projects and Signage Status**

Funch confirmed the trail maintenance has been completed in areas of: Williams Barn, Fitch-Woods, McLains Woods, Cox-Walker, Watson Way Conservation, Scarlet Hill, Fitch Estates (Wallace Rd.), , Johnston Conservation.

Funch reported on Longley Road, easement for trail linking to Shepley Hills. It has been cleared by Anna Eliot and Groton Conservation Trust in conversations with Funch..

- Trail markers are required at head of trail on Longley Road.

**f) Squannacook River Rail Trail Grant**

Funch reported Squannacook River Rail Trail got a \$10,000 grant from Bruce J Anderson Foundation.

**g) Website and Mapping Status**

Lathrop reported Hazel Grove Committee have opened a new trail loop within Hazel Grove Fair Grounds. Lathrop has added the trail to the map for the planned 3x3ft aluminum sign which is to be displayed within Hazel Grove Fair Grounds. Lathrop advised that he has assisted the Hazel Grove Fair Ground Committee by ordering the signs on their behalf.

*Steve Legge arrived: 7:45pm*

Lathrop advised the Committee of plans to add Hazel Grove Trail Head signs with distances. Committee discussed what should be included in the signs, and advised the following:

- **Hazel Grove Trail Head South - Jenkins Road Trail Head**
  - Remove Nashua River Trail replace with Hazel Grove Trail Head
  - Long Hill road (route 225)
  - Groton School Boathouse
  - Shirley Road
- **Hazel Grove Trail Head North – Hazel Grove Trail head**
  - Gratuity Road
  - Fitch's Bridge
  - Jenkins Road Trail Head
  - Hill Road

Lathrop indicated he will plan a trail head sign at head of Gratuity Road.

- **Action Item** – Lathrop to finalize design of signs and email design to Committee for review prior to ordering signs.

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

#### **a) Complete Streets Committee Representative Selection**

Funch reported he attended the Selectmen's meeting on July 11; where they discussed approval of the Complete Streets Committee Charge and the initial membership. The charge of the Committee is to implement Complete Streets policy. During the meeting the Selectmen agreed a Groton Trails Committee representative should be on the Complete Streets Committee.

Legge indicated interest in taking on role: Lathrop motioned the Committee to nominate Legge as Groton Trails Committee representative on the Complete Streets Committee. Good seconded the motion.

- approved unanimously:
- **Action Item:** Funch took an action to notify the Selectmen/Town Manager of our recommendation.

#### **b) Fitch Bridge Recreational Use**

Funch received police department email regarding younger persons drinking and jumping off Fitch's Bridge including concerns on possible trespassing on Gary Wilkins land. They also brought their concerns to the Selectmen at their meeting on July 11 and the Selectmen indicated they wanted to install a warning sign on the bridge. Funch suggested the Committee recommend to the Selectman / Town Manager an alternative option for consideration by the town; namely purchase a parcel of land from Gary Wilkins to enable recreational use.

- **Action Item:** Funch to communicate to town with our recommendation for alternative option; purchase parcel of land from Gary Wilkins for enablement of recreational use.
- **Action Item:** Also, Funch to communicate with the Greenway Committee and the Park Commission to get their support for concept as well.

Legge reported Friedrich's property on Gratuity Road is for sale, easement discussion may be an option to review.

- **Action Item:** Funch to follow up with town to consider options

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

Funch reported trail connection along driveway off North- woods Road. Recommendation for Trail head posts on right-of-way on North-Woods Road. Highway Department has previously given permissions, but Funch advised that a Committee member needed to take the actions to complete work for this. Good was concerned that a boundary post could not be found previously.

- **Action Item:** Good to call Bruce Easom to verify if survey can be completed to locate boundary post.

#### **d) Whispering Brook Trail Connection**

Funch reported trail on map from Whispering Brook road to Blood Road trail does not go down conservation land but down private land owners home driveway. Complaints have been received

about accessibility to trail from walkers and from Land owner on use of the drive by walkers.

Funch reported that a Committee member needed to complete investigation of options for new trail to side of driveway on conservation land.

- **Action Item:** Barstow offered to investigate options on site and to locate boundaries.

#### e) **Scarlet Hill**

Lathrop reported there is stone gravel at trail head, Funch reported this was due to hydrant flushing erosion and was remediation work done by Water Department.

Lathrop and Good reported that on inspecting the site, the trail head is very steep, very loose gravel and the steep bank connects directly onto road without any level standing room at the roadside. It was discussed this presents a concern:

- horses are unable to stop on the steep slope prior to entering the road way.
- the very loose gravel makes descent of the slope difficult for walkers.

Lathrop and Newman E confirmed Meredith Scarlet had indicated in emails and discussions that she has materials and is prepared to undertake the work to put in place a bank.

- **Action Item:** Lathrop to contact Highway Superintendent Tom Delaney and Meredith on next steps.

#### f) **Trail Maintenance needs**

Funch requested to purchase gas powered pole saw, expected approximate price of \$360.

Good moved a motion for Funch to buy a gas powered pole saw, with a cost of no more than \$400, Lathrop seconded the motion.

- approved unanimously:

#### 4. **Adjournment**

Lathrop moved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm, Good seconded the motion.

- approved unanimously: