



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****

Oct 18, 2016

Attendees:			Visitors:
Chairman	Paul Funch	X	
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop	X	
Secretary	Emma Newman	X	
Members	Wangfang Murray		
	David Burnham	X	
	Wendy Good	X	
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Timothy Newman	X	
	Jason Remillard	X	

1. Call to Order

Funch called the meeting to order with the above committee members present at 7:06pm.

2. Reports/Old Business

a) Approval of minutes.

Lathrop moved to approve the minutes as amended of July 19, 2016; Dave B seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

Lathrop moved to approve the minutes as amended of Sept 20, 2016; Dave B seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

b) Eagle Scout.

No updates reported

c) Trail maintenance projects status.

Areas covered; Town Forest, McLain's Woods, Northwoods, Longley II, Johnston, Sawtell, Groton Hills, Cox-Walker, Partridgeberry, Spencer Circle, Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School Cross Country. A lot of progress made, completed a lot of clearance and head clearance for equestrians.

d) Guided hikes.

Held:

Sept 2016, Throne Hill: 4 people attended

Oct 2016, Met and ended at Williams Barn: 1 person attended

Nothing Scheduled.

Steve Legge arrived: 7:18pm

e) Northwoods easement marking.

Trail head post and marker placement agreed to with landowner and installed.

f) Trail development projects.

- Whispering Brook trail rerouting

Action Item: Burnham to review site and identify boundaries.

- Fitch's Bridge recreational area & Nashua River trail

Funch proposes to link this project to opening Nashua River trail,

Action Item: Next Conservation Commission meeting Funch to talk about land purchase options, and explore if landowner is willing to sell land for an easement.

- Martins Pond Road

Lathrop met with Meredith Scarlet, concluded it is outside wetland buffer zone. Meredith shared with Lathrop a diagram of the planned project, an embankment with wooden edged steps. Meredith is planning to mow the area for improved assessment of the site. Conservation Commission has a CR on the land allowing for trail maintenance only. Lathrop advised that to mow the area Meredith would need Conservation Commission permission. Lathrop requested the Groton Trails Committee support this project and to ask for support from the Conservation Commission.

Good moved to recommend Groton Trails Committee support this project and to ask for support from the Conservation Commission; Lathrop seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

- SCA projects

Good recommended J.Harry Rich State Forest as a potential site, second (northern) loop trail remains wet in stream area and has logs in the stream area.

g) Committee member

Funch notified the committee that Paul Barstow had resigned. Funch recommended Jim Peregoy as a new committee member.

Lathrop moved to recommended Jim Peregoy as a new committee member; Burnham seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

h) High School Trail Project

Email received from Jon O'Connor regarding school project to place wind chimes made from recycled items by the school children on the High School cross country trail. Jon requested Groton Trails Committee support for the project.

Lathrop moved to recommend that the committee support the project with recommendation that the

response include statement that so long as the placement of the chimes was limited to being on school district property only and above equestrian users head height; Burnham seconded.

- Approved unanimously.

i) Business Card

Funch created a Groton Trails Committee business card prototype for committee review and approval for ordering via online business card retailer. Cost for basic card was estimated at 500 cards for \$10. Funch would review options for trail symbol on reverse of card.

Lathrop made a motion to authorize Paul Funch to order Groton Trails Committee business cards for a cost of no more than \$25: Good seconded.

- Approved unanimously.

j) Website and Mapping status (geolocation)

Lathrop notified that Geolocation is no longer working, Remillard confirmed it was not functioning due to HTTPS secure connection requirement.

Action Item: Remillard to review options to resolve this issue.

Good advised that Hazel Grove Agricultural Association had requested that the HGAA website link be added to the Groton Trails website, as the best trails for horses text referenced Hazel Grove.

Newman T, left the meeting at 7:50pm

k) Signage and Mapping

Lathrop proposed a sign at Williams Barn, similar to Hazel Grove 3ft by 3ft sign.

Lathrop has this proposal on the agenda at next Williams Barn committee meeting. His proposal is to place it in corner of parking lot by entrance corner, south facing.

Funch indicated he also had an agenda item at the next Williams Barn committee meeting regarding potential placement of a memorial bench at Williams Barn.

l) Upcoming Events

Freedom's Way Mosaic Conference (10/22); Funch to attend.

3. Discussions and New Business:

a) Greenway River Festival and Grotonfest in 2017

Funch and Lathrop indicated the addition of the photo board to the booth was well received. Funch recommended options assessed for improving the photo board, and map. Legge recommended assessment of the booth layout to enable improved visitor accesses.

Action Item: Newman E, to look into improved photo board and booth layout options, including signage for email sign up. Newman E, to present back to committee with options.

b) Groton Conservation Forum (Feb 2017)

Funch reminded the Committee that the Groton Trails Committee was responsible for organizing Groton Conservation Forum in 2017. Funch and Lathrop to form subcommittee, there is an open invite for anyone else in the committee to be involved.

Newman T, returned to meeting at 8:18pm

c) \$3 donation received at Grotonfest

Legge notified he had a \$3 donation handed to him at Grotonfest, which he had deposited with the town clerk.

d) Tinker Trail

Legge notified he recently took an elderly person (92) on Tinker Trail walking with a cane, and in a separate walk, his mother in law who is in a wheel chair. Both walks were completed the whole way, he reported that the walk was very accessible and worked very well for restricted mobility persons.

e) Complete Streets

Legge notified committee formed and will be meeting Friday Oct 21 2016.

Good notified committee that the trail around the gate on water tower at Brooks Orchard, flat enough to get around but needs exploring as the gate is locked.

4. Adjournment

Lathrop moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm, Burnham seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.