



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
(978) 448-1111
FAX: (978) 448-1115



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****

Nov 15, 2016

Attendees:			Visitors:
Chairman	Paul Funch	X	Loraine & Steven Scampini, 23 Stonecleave Lane, Groton.
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop	X	Dan Patnaude
Secretary	Emma Newman	X	Darcy Schultz
Members	Wanfang Murray		Bruce Easom (arrived 7:28pm)
	David Burnham		
	Wendy Good	X	
	Stephen Legge	x	
	Timothy Newman	X	
	Jason Remillard		
	Jim Peregoy	X	

1. Call to Order

Funch called the meeting to order with the above committee members present at 7:05pm.

2. Introduction of New Member Candidates

Two new committee member candidates: Darcy Schultz and Dan Patnaude.

Candidates discussed interests and awareness of Groton trails and possible contributions new members could make to the committee.

Funch confirmed only one position available, and Dan's application was received first.

Recommendation made by Lathrop that the person not selected on this occasion to continue to attend trail committee meetings and organized events, until a vacancy comes up.

Lathrop moved for Dan to be appointed to Groton Trails Committee, Legge seconded.

- Unanimously approved.

Darcy left meeting at 7:20pm.

3. Reports/Old Business

a) Approval of minutes.

Good moved to approve the minutes as amended of Oct 18, 2016; Peregoy seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

b) Eagle Scout.

Funch reported there had been an awards ceremony for Eagle Scout Alex Platt, for the observation deck project Alex completed.

Funch discussed the status of Memorial Bench for Eric Hannemann and potential agreement with Alex Platt, that the observation deck would be a suitable place for a Bench in wood.

c) Trail maintenance projects status.

Areas covered;

- J. Rich Harry State Forest were cleared of debris left by the Bureau of Forest Fire Control's brush cutter work.
- Chicopee Row to Williams Barn - low hanging trees/bushes/bittersweet cleared
- Wharton Plantation trails cleared with the brush mower
- Sawtell and Groton Hills Conservation Areas - opened up the trail corridors
- Groton Town Forest - two of the main trails: Ames Pond Rd. and Town Forest Rd.

Newman T, left meeting 7:30pm.

d) Guided hikes.

None held. Lathrop plans to schedule something for Dec.

e) Surrenden Farm Resource Management Plan.

Update given that in the Surrenden Farm area, mowing will be restricted on the trail through the middle of the field and the trail towards Nashua River, to help maintain habitats for birds. The trail on the right from information kiosk will remain open and mowed. The plan is available on the conservation page of town website.

f) Conservation Commission Discussion

Funch provided an update on discussions with Conservation committee on following topics:

- Two possible land purchase's:
 1. Gary Wilkins Farm to create a small parking lot / recreational / canoe launch area near Fitch's Bridge.
 2. Section along Nashua River bank to Friedrich's parcel. Section of Friedrich's land is the only section of the Nashua River's eastern bank without a trail from Fitch's Bridge south to Ayer.

Conservation Commission recommended approaching Department of Fish and Wildlife about potential land purchase. Wendy raised a question; if NEFF would be interested.

- Notified Conservation Commission that a culvert is broken in Sawtell Conservation area and invasive are blocking trails. Funch is looking into if the Highway Department could help.
- Notified Conservation Commission that Orion Way trail used to be well marked,

originally by wood chips but now is hard to distinguish from homeowner's lawn. Funch requested that Conservation Commission undertake work to differentiate trail from the landowner's lawn.

- Raised concerns over Mahoney Lane pathway across Chicopee Row from Williams Barn. Adjoining landowners own to mid line of Mahoney Lane. Groton Conservation Trust has easement for one half but Conservation Commission needs easement for the other half. Public access on Mahoney Lane needs resolving with legal easement.

g) Whispering Brook

- No update - pending Dave Burnham
- Loraine and Steven Scampini raised that their property (23 Stonecleave Lane) abuts the Whispering Brook trail. Steven reported that he has walked it but beaver dams flooded couple hundred feet making it difficult to pass.
- Committee discussed walkers using driveway not trail where it enters Whispering Brook road. Good confirmed boundaries needs to be confirmed then trail re-routed.

Tim re-joined meeting 7:55pm.

h) Website and Mapping status (geolocation)

No updates.

i) Signage and Mapping

Lathrop notified:

- 3 new signs for Hazel Grove have been ordered.
- Replaced 2 signs in Cox-Walker that had fallen down. Mahoney Lane sign placed on smoother bark tree with longer nails to see if this holds better.
- Ordered longer smooth shank aluminum nails.
- Williams Barn sign, similar to Hazel Grove indicating trail network from site, Williams Barn committee considering and will decide in January meeting.

j) Miscellaneous Items

No updates on booth design, Emma to update next meeting.

Freedoms Way Mosaic Conference. – Fruitland's Prospect Hill, Funch attended and walked trails. 4 miles of trails well marked with colored markers. Normally charge \$6 entry fees. Lot of informational signs on trails.

Groton Conservation Forum - on agenda for GCT stewardship meeting. Lathrop considering venues.

Groton Town Forest race – almost 200 runners. \$2000 donation to Groton Trails Committee from Squannacook River Runners.

4. Discussions and New Business:

a) Hidden Treasures (May 2017)

Need to consider what Groton Trails Committee will organize. The trolley costs are to be considered. Legge raised that the geology tour last time was very good. Discussion held about funding from last year. Recommended funding should be sought to repeat geology tour but also consider additional alternatives.

b) Fall Ride.

Good raised questions about a trail encountered on her fall ride from Wiewel to Pacer Way. Upon crossing the Rail Trail and heading towards Culver Street from the Eliades Conservation area, the trail was not well delineated. Discussion held on options for a connecting trail from Rail Trail to Culver St. Committee concluded that area was either across the town line into Ayer or on private property and thus not feasible.

Good raised that Bates Bridge, off Old Ayer Road, is in bad maintenance shape. Discussion about proposed repair using a metal plate, Good discussed concerns of metal plate surface for horses. Good to look into options and RDA for fix to bridge.

Flavell Crossing, Bruce Eason and Funch to visit site on Friday to review boundary of newly donated parcel of land.

5. Adjournment

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

- Approved unanimously.