



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****

Dec 20, 2016

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introduction of New Committee Member

Funch introduced and welcomed new committee member - Dan Patnaude

3. Reports/Old Business

a) Approval of minutes.

Legge moved to approve the minutes as amended of Nov 15, 2016; Burnham seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.
- Amendments:
 - addition of words “eastern” and “south” to 3.f.2 as requested by Legge
 - Funch to edit first sentence of 4b to ensure clarity of meaning

b) Eagle Scout.

Funch reported he had completed some site tours with Zach Miller and discussed post erections with Zach for the following locations:

1. Northwoods parcel (GCC) – 3 posts (easement, top of hill, replacement)
2. Integrity Way (Hemlock Grove) parcel (GCC) – 2 posts (trailhead at cul-de-sac)
3. Spencer Circle (Balcom Estates) parcel (GCC) – 5 posts (along sidewalk from Hill Rd.)
4. Shattuck St. & Martins Pond Rd. (GCC) – 2 posts

5. Gratuity Rd. (Cunningham easement) (GTC) – 1 post replacement
6. Longley Rd. (Eliot easement) (GTC) – 2 posts
7. Nashua River Rail Trail (DCR) – 6 posts (2 Cronin parcel trailheads and 1 Longley II parcel)
8. Longley II trailhead (GCC) – (2 post for sign) and 1 post for trailhead
9. Old Dunstable Rd. (Wharton Plantation) (NEFF) - 2-4 trailhead posts

Funch discussed the remaining projects for scouts are larger scale projects, so looking for recommended smaller scale projects for scouts.

c) Trail maintenance projects status.

Funch reviewed the listing of projects completed and highlighted the following:

- 93 projects were completed in 2016
- 375 total volunteer hours
 - 163 volunteer hours were from Trails Committee members
 - 212 volunteer hours were from non-committee persons
- Tim Leach recorded the highest volunteer hours
- Jim Peregoy was the highest volunteer hours but due to now joining committee is no longer eligible for volunteer recognition
- Letter to be sent thanking volunteer with tee shirt for highest hours volunteer.

Funch consulted committee on options for tee shirts for all committee members. Funch discussed magnetic signs for cargo trailer but as it is aluminum it is not magnetic, so not viable.

Committee discussed options for graphics for trailer and vinyl decals.

- ACTION Peregoy to look into options.
- ACTION Funch to review tee shirt options and designs for next meeting.

d) Guided hikes.

Funch notified he had confirmation from Lathrop of the following:

- No guided hikes completed in December
- Guided hikes planned:
 - Sun 15 Jan 2017: 13:00. River Romp.
 - Sun 19 Feb 2017: 13:00. Wild Wharton.
 - Sun 19 Mar 2017: 13:00. Vivid Vistas.

e) Groton Conservation Forum

Funch provided an update on Groton Conservation forum planning:

- Dave Black of Groton Conservation Trust to give keynote speech
- Thursday 16 Feb 2017 (snow date 23 Feb) 6pm start Lawrence Academy Media Center
- Plans to collect information of attending groups prior to day, and provide information booklet with contacts
- Keynote speech to start at 7 and cover property management response to climate change, including pressure on animals and vegetation habitats driving reliance on land owners to work together to maintain large blocks of land with less emphasis on recreational use of trails, to allow conservation of habitats.

Lathrop and Funch have split up the group listing of invites, to enable them to share the gathering of

information for the booklet.

f) Website and Mapping status (geolocation)

Remillard provided update on website:

- more pictures have been added and pictures on maps established
- geolocation button enabled
- identification bubbles and links to Google Maps set up
- Groton Place video links added
- adjusted for phone size viewing
- kettle holes identified on maps

Remillard highlighted to the committee an article in the Boston Globe about Groton that included information from the website. Remillard confirmed approximately 200 visits per day on the website (2000 over 2 weeks)

Remillard requested additional trail photos, specifically with horseback riders, biking and glacial features.

Legge discussed that we should have a thanks in the paper for top volunteers including Grace Remillard for website design and recognition of Eagle Scouts work. Funch agreed getting word out of recognition would be good.

g) Signage and Mapping

Funch notified he had confirmation from Lathrop the invoice for the 3 new signs at Hazel Grove is in town hall and needs committee members to sign it.

4. Discussions and New Business:

a) Hidden Treasures (May 2017)

Funch confirmed the Geology Bus Tour was to be repeated, recommended to run on a Sat and Sun in different weeks. The buses hold 30-35 people, and Freedom's Way will have grant available as well as Groton Trust Funds. Funch will do hike up around Williams Barn. Will ask Bob Pine to run video - Gifts of Glaciers. Month long event but there is no need to fill up entire month. Burnham confirmed he would look into bike ride options. Legge discussed options for canoe trips on Oxbow near Tinker Trail.

Funch asked for suggestions. Jan / Feb deadline for entries.

b) Annual Report

Legge asked committee for input for annual report:

- Legge asked Funch for projects to be listed in the annual report.
- Burnham recommended that Tinker Trail, and clean-up of town forest were the most notable.
- Funch recommended mention of the trail project work completed at bottom of General Field.
- Newman E, recommended mention of signage at Hazel Grove and website re-work.
- Funch recommended mention of GDRMS XC Trail and support of Jack Petropoulos -

mowing and widening, as result of microburst wind storm that went through Groton in early Sept.

- West of Old Dunstable Road, Wharton Plantation trail was opened in 2016. NEFF had placed larger tree trunks to stop ATVs. Funch reported worked with NEFF to cut slots in trunks to enable trail access for walkers in 2016

Legge asked for relevant pictures, as they are also encouraged and needed for the report and would be likely included in town report.

c) New Trail

Funch reported that he and Bruce Easom surveyed Flavell Crossing, between Duck Pond Dr. and Painted Post Rd. Near Special Ops mountain bike trail and Blake Abraham bridge stream crossing. A parcel of land was donated to Conservation Commission adjacent to wetlands in this area. Funch and Easom looked at options for trail through highland towards marshland. Location close to Westford's gun club. Next year's project will be to create the trail.

5. Adjournment

Peregoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm, Burnham seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.