



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****

Jan 17, 2017

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

1. Call to Order

Funch called the meeting to order with the above committee members present at 7:04pm.

2. Will Hughson's Eagle Scout Project

Will Hughson presented his Eagle Scout project proposal:

- Throne Hill project, area of wetlands accessed off Castle drive, second right, few hundred feet along trail
- Proposal is to build a bog bridge off edge of trail (dirt road) constructed 2ft wide, 12 to 16 inches off ground held off ground by drainage pipes (8 or 12 inches).
- Planned construction in June 2017.

Lathrop raised concerns that trail is emergency access road and made recommendation that Will contact fire department to approve construction. Funch noted that bog bridge is off to the side of the road and would probably provide sufficient room for 7-8ft wide vehicle access. Consultation with Fire Dept. would be wise after making measurements in the field to confirm width of access.

Discussion followed that the trail is currently very dry. Committee recommended Will review in spring as length of wet area is potentially 100ft. Will looking at 40ft section to bridge worse section of standing water. Will agreed to review area of standing water in spring.

Lathrop raised that the Groton Trail Committee currently has recycled Trex decking material available.

Lathrop to assist with land owner discussion (Groton Conservation Trust) and applying for approval by Conservation Commission through RDA process.

Wanfang Murray arrived 7:24pm.

3. Reports/Old Business

a) Approval of minutes.

Funch reviewed his edits of the Dec 20 2016 meeting minutes. Murray moved to approve the minutes as amended of Dec 20 2016; Remillard seconded the motion.

- Approved with one abstention: Lathrop.

b) Committee resignation.

Wendy Good has notified Funch of her resignation from the committee. Funch contacted previous applicant for Trails Committee, Darcy Schultz, to enquire if she was still interested in joining the committee. Schultz confirmed she was interested.

Lathrop moved that Darcy Schultz be recommended as new committee member, Peregoy seconded.

- Approved unanimously

Funch suggested to the committee the purchase of a plaque in recognition of Good's service of 19 years.

Lathrop moved that the committee approve that Funch spend no more than \$70 on the purchase of a plaque in recognition of Good's service of 19 years, Remillard seconded.

- Approved unanimously

c) Eagle Scout Projects

Funch reported he had been contacted by Dean Marsh (Scoutmaster of one of Groton's Boy Scout troops) regarding scouts looking for winter projects. Funch requested committee provide recommendations for winter Eagle Scout projects. Following recommendations were made:

- Newman, E – Booth marketing board constructed in rustic style to match current booth signs.
- Funch - Shepley Hill parcel placement of trail disc markers.
- Murray – Sawtell Conservation area wetland crossing improvement.

d) Guided hikes.

Lathrop reported:

- guided hike completed:
 - Sun 15 Jan 2017: 17 people attended. Starting and ending at Hazel Grove, completed a 3.6 mile loop.
- Guided hikes planned:
 - Sun 19 Feb 2017: 13:00. Wild Wharton.
 - Sun 19 Mar 2017: 13:00. Vivid Vistas.

Remillard agreed to resubmit the planned guided hikes notifications to papers for publishing closer to time of planned hikes.

e) Groton Conservation Forum

Funch provided an update on Groton Conservation Forum planning:

- Thursday 16 Feb 2017 (snow date 23 Feb) 6:00pm start Lawrence Academy Media Centre
- Key note speech to start at 7:00pm. With food and social gathering from 6:00pm.
- Remillard to notify papers, Facebook and mailing list of meeting.
- Lathrop and Funch have initiated inviting groups.

Funch raised that last year beer and wine was available. Lawrence Academy has a license. Funch asked if there is a recommendation from the committee as to whether beer and wine is needed for the event? Recommendation from committee that beer and wine was not required.

f) Annual Report Status.

No updated from Legge. Funch reminded Legge is seeking inputs and photos.

g) Hidden Treasures (May 2017)

Murray notified she has registered proposed event, Birds and Nature walk (on Nashua River Rail Trail starting at Groton Library) and had included in the submission the Trail Committee logo.

Funch proposes to submit a hike from Williams Barn up to Chestnut Hill to look at Groton eskers and drumlins.

Funch reminded the committee that all submission must be posted online by February 7th, 2017.

h) “Trail Crossing” on Chicopee at Williams Barn and W. Main St. at Senior Center

Funch asked Lathrop to source 6 posts and trail crossing signs. Graphic with bike, horse and walker to be considered.

i) Signage and Mapping

Lathrop reported: 3 signs have been erected for Hazel Grove and presented the invoice for committee members to sign during meeting.

Lathrop to review sign options for Sawtell Conservation Area and report back at next meeting.

j) Website and Mapping Status (geolocation)

Remillard provided update on website:

- more pictures to be added.
- review of text and corrections being applied. Once completed, Remillard to report back and seek further review.
- Grace Remillard is not reviewing text in the information bubbles on the maps; requested the committee to review these.
- Lathrop to provide more photos.

Newman T, left at 8:25pm

4. Discussions and New Business:

a) Stephen Hutchinson, Mass Audubon's Rocky Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

Funch and Olin reported discussion with Stephen Hutchinson about trails in Mass Audubon's Rocky Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, options for access from Groton and Ayer trails to Mass Audubon. Lathrop to measure and map trails in area in spring, and determine which trails are to be mapped and officially marked as trails. Funch reported a lot of informal trails are on the site, so need to establish official trails and signs in the Sanctuary.

5. Adjournment

Lathrop moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, Patnaude seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.