



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\***

**February 21, 2017**

<b>Attendees:</b>			<b>Visitors:</b>
Chairman	Paul Funch	X	Eric Tobies
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop	X	Sandra Tobies
Secretary	Emma Newman	X	Grace Remillard
<b>Members</b>	Wanfang Murray	X	Bruce Easom
	David Burnham	X	Jeremy Sickles
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Timothy Newman		
	Jason Remillard	X	
	Jim Peregoy	X	
	Dan Patnaude		
	Darcy Schultz		

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

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

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

#### **a) Resignation of Committee Member**

Newman E, announced her decision to resign from the committee.

#### **b) Approval of minutes**

Lathrop moved to approve the minutes as amended of Jan 17, 2017; Peregoy seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

Lathrop moved to approve the minutes for Gibbet Hill Bridge letter meeting of Jan 26, 2017; Peregoy seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously, one abstention: Remillard

Lathrop moved to approve the minutes for Conservation Forum meeting of Feb 16, 2017; Peregoy seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

#### **c) Eagle Scout**

Zach Miller has approvals for post erections, pending improvement in weather.

#### **d) Guided Hikes**

- Guided hike completed:
  - Sun 19 Feb 2017: Wild Wharton. 22 attendees
- Guided hikes planned:
  - Sun 19 Mar 2017: 13:00. Vivid Vistas.

#### **e) Groton Conservation Forum**

Lathrop reported David Black delivered a very good talk prompting some good discussions. Legge highlighted the interest he found in the talk. Murray asked a question: While there was a lot of good dialog between diverse groups, is there a follow-on action to encourage further discussions and collaboration between the groups? Funch responded there is planning being done by the Groton Conservation Trust to possibly hire a summer intern to do an inventory of key parcels and interact with the stakeholder groups.

Lathrop moved to approve the letter to Lawrence Academy thanking them for the use of their facilities; Peregoy seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

#### **f) Complete Streets**

Legge reported on the Complete Streets Committee's public hearing; whose purpose was to review a list of potential manageable projects that can be state funded and to seek public input on which projects to prioritize. Next stage is to submit a list by April 1, 2017 to obtain grant money for construction costs.

Discussion held on safe pedestrian access to CVS and Emerson hospital, and scope of activities being undertaken by the state.

#### **g) Annual Report**

The committee thanked Legge for compiling the report.

#### **h) Hidden Treasures (May 2017)**

Funch confirmed:

- Geology Bus Tour is to be repeated,
- Murray submitted Birds and Nature walk (on Nashua River Rail Trail)
- Funch submitted for hike in the Williams Barn area to experience glacial remnants
- Final deadline for submission April 21<sup>st</sup> – Legge and Burnham considering submitting events: Legge – Paddling, Burnham - Bike

#### **i) Signage and Mapping**

Lathrop confirmed he has submitted an order for 6 signs showing trail crossing with images of bike, walker, and horse rider for where trails cross roads with poor sight lines. Lathrop confirmed he has yet to complete work on signs for Groton Hills.

Lathrop will be attending next Williams Barn Committee meeting, he reported the sign will be

brown, placement is in discussion. Revised proposal to be presented at next meeting will be 2x2 foot sign in brown background.

**j) Website and Mapping Status (geolocation)**

Remillard provided update on website:

- more pictures have been added and pictures on maps indicated by camera icons
- Photos cropped for viewing on phones

Remillard provided an update on Facebook traffic: nearly 1000 people have liked the page, 2000 people reviewed the March hike. More followers on Facebook than email, mostly women.

Funch confirmed he sees traffic on website and had noted increased traffic, Lathrop confirmed he has been handing out the business cards with the link.

Lathrop notified that mapping has not been completed, as too much snow.

**k) Wendy Good Award**

Funch showed the committee a wooden plaque award, engraved with an appreciation for her 19 years of dedicated service, to be presented to Wendy. Cost was \$54, well within the amount approved by the committee.

**l) Top Volunteer Letter of Thanks**

Funch provided the committee with a letter of thanks to Tim Leach, and asked all the committee members present to sign it, which they did.

**m) Design for Volunteer Tee Shirts**

Funch showed committee a design for the Groton Trails Committee Volunteer Tee Shirt. Discussion held on the design and images. To be awarded to top volunteers, committee members, et al.

- Legge to review design options and report back to committee next month.

**n) Gift Fund**

Funch reported on the Groton Trails Committee gift fund register and noted that Squannacook River Runners gifted \$2000 into the fund. Funch wrote a letter of thanks.

Lathrop moved to approve the letter to the Squannacook River Runners; Peregoy seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

**o) Eric Tobies**

Eric Tobies discussed his interest in participating in the committee's projects such as volunteering with the committee on trail clearing. Newman E suggested he could help with the booth display board.

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

#### **a) Mass Wildlife Trail Policy**

Funch provided the committee with copies of the Mass Wildlife Trail Policy. It states that Mass Wildlife will allow existing trails to be used but will not allow trails to be maintained, with a very few exceptions. Discussions held on various parcels of land in Groton that Mass Wildlife either owns or on which they hold conservation restrictions.

#### **b) Selectman Goals and Objectives**

Funch noted that committee members have specific activities they perform, but there are more general objectives of the committee. Murray noted that goals could be education, communication, and engagement opportunities improving visibility of the committee.

Lathrop discussed goals he has as a volunteer, but is not sure these should be measurable committee goals. Funch and Legge discussed the goals for committee can be higher level general goals for whole committee. Funch suggested one goal of committee could be improvement of trails to improve quality and sustainability of trails. Murray proposed possibility of “story book trail” creation. Funch discussed possibility of goal for improved visibility of other boards’ deliberations, such as those of the Planning Board.

#### **c) Jeremy Sickles’ Eagle Scout Project**

Arrived at 8:25pm. Jeremy presented his plans for a bridge:

- 2x6 decking planned.
- Lathrop recommended use of used Trek Deck that Trails Committee has, and indicated supports should be no farther than 16 inches on center. Lathrop and Jeremy reviewed design in detail, with recommended changes based on use of Trek Deck and design. Lathrop to review RDA with Jeremy.

### **4. Adjournment**

Lathrop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm, Peregoy seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.