



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **March 21, 2017**

| <b>Attendees:</b> |                 |   | <b>Visitors:</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Chairman          | Paul Funch      | X | Matthew Wong     |
| Vice Chair        | Olin Lathrop    | X | Arthur Wong      |
| Secretary         | Tim Newman      | X | Bryan Bonnett    |
| <b>Members</b>    | Wanfang Murray  |   | Eric Huber       |
|                   | David Burnham   | X | Bob Ordemann     |
|                   | Stephen Legge   | X |                  |
|                   | Jason Remillard | X |                  |
|                   | Jim Peregoy     |   |                  |
|                   | Dan Patnaude    | X |                  |
|                   | Darcy Schultz   | X |                  |

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

Funch called the meeting to order with the above committee members present at 7:02pm.

### **2. Eagle Scout Projects**

- a) Matthew Wong – Develop QR code collection and scoring application to increase public participation/interest in points of interest along trail.
  - i. There was a discussion about the use/function of QR codes. Remillard remarked that current QR codes have low traffic.
  - ii. Remillard suggested a single URL with geo-location to direct the user to information about the location as an alternative to a QR code.
  - iii. Some 50 sites / QR code locations were envisaged.
  - iv. Would require QR codes to be created, sited and supporting information hosted on the current GTC website.
  - v. Peregoy recommended that Matthew first develop a proof of concept for one or a few locations.
  - vi. Next steps:
    - i. Remillard will provide assistance with website.
    - ii. Feedback at a future meeting on progress – proof of concept.
- b) Bryan Bonnett – Build folding display unit for use at Grotonfest, Greenway River Festival, etc.
  - i. Matt's presentation – sketches of proposed initial design, cork board, table top were shown at the meeting. Tri-fold design for table top display was an option which was favored by the group after discussions.

- ii. Design to replicate the current trail marker posts and be in keeping with current GTC booth design and styling.
  - iii. Newman remarked on the sizing needed – printed paper sheets in portrait/landscape should be able to be accommodated.
  - iv. Design proposed should be lightweight and be able to be secured to the table/booth.
  - v. Next step – construction of tri-fold within 4-6 weeks. Riverfest next opportunity in June to make use of this display unit.
- c) Eric Huber – Marking trails in Shepley Hills.
- i. Loop trails – approved by Groton Conservation Trust.
  - ii. Trail connection to Common St. passes over private property.
    - i. Funch to check with Trust on who the landowner is, whether contact is needed, and by whom.
  - iii. Using GTC standard markers – Lathrop provided a quantity of trail markers.
    - i. More markers may need to be ordered.
    - ii. Nails – required, Aluminum. Leave ½ inch for tree growth. More need to be purchased.
  - iv. Funch remarked - always affix markers on right hand side of trail as high as possible.
  - v. Funch asked Eric to invite him to assist on first day of trail marking.

### **3. New Committee Applicant**

Robert Ordemann: Applicant for open seat on Trails Committee.

The committee discussed the appointment with Ordemann – his interests, his reasons for joining.

Lathrop moved to put Robert Ordemann forward to the Board of Selectmen, Seconded by Patnaude.

- Approved unanimously.

### **4. Approval of February minutes**

Add Schultz to the list of committee members in the draft reviewed.

Burnham moved to approve the minutes as amended of Feb 21, 2017; Lathrop seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously.

### **5. Reports / Old Business**

a) Guided hikes – Lathrop reported:

- Sun 9 Apr 2017, 13:00. Snake Hills, Groton.  
Sun 21 May 2017, 13:00. Cox, Walker, and beyond, Groton.
- Sun 11 June 2017, 13:0. Northeast Groton.
- Partnering with New England Forestry Foundation was discussed. Schultz to provide

contact information.

b) Other Boy Scout projects status – Funch reported no updates available to:

- Jeremy Sickles: Amanda's Way/GWD bridge and trail re-routing .
- Will Hughson: Throne Hill bog bridge.
- Zach Miller: replacing trailhead posts and guide posts.

c) Signs status:

- Lathrop reported: Mock up sign discussed for Williams Brown trail head.
- Funch reported: 3 x trail crossings signs for roadways were received from MassCorr. Posts also received. DPW to install them – no date available.

d) Website and map status: hardcopy maps; text revisions:

- Remillard reported progress on the printed maps on the GTC website.

e) Interest expressed in developing/maintaining Lost Lake area trails:

- Funch reported someone had contacted the committee about maintaining Lost Lake trail within the Lost Lake Recreation Area.
  - i. It's all Groton Conservation Trust land - Funch to review with the Trust.
- Funch to go out to the area and site review with the individual concerned and the Trust.

f) Designs for Trails Committee volunteer t-shirts:

- Legge showed some designs.
- Front: use the trails LOGO, Add words "Volunteer" below.
- Back: Groton Trails words and some pictures (Deer, Owl, hiker, Fox).
- Color of T-shirt: dark color – grey, green was suggested as appropriate – not white.
- Legge to review feedback and provide some more ideas next meeting.

## **6. New Business**

a) Motion to support Conservation Commission's request for CPA funds to add to their Conservation Fund:

- To support/enable land purchases at short notice for the benefit of the town.

Lathrop made a motion to support the conversation Commission's request for twenty-five thousand US dollars from the community preservation fund at the next town meeting. Seconded by Burnham.

- Approved unanimously.

b) 2017 Goals and Objectives of Trails Committee:

- Funch sent some the text for discussion.
  - i. Funch noted that there are Groton Trust Fund monies available for speaker/lecture costs related to trails.

- ii. Funch asked for contributions to the goals and objectives text from the committee before the next meeting.
  - iii. Funch asked for members to review a spreadsheet of conservation parcels in Groton to consider for which ones each member could be a steward. Spreadsheet will be e-mailed to all members and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- c) Funch moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm. Seconded by Lathrop.
- Approved unanimously.