



TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **October 17, 2017**

| Attendees: | | | Visitors: |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Chairman | Paul Funch | X | Wendy Good |
| Vice Chair | Olin Lathrop | X | |
| Secretary | Tim Newman | | |
| Members | Wanfang Murray | X | |
| | David Burnham | | |
| | Stephen Legge | X | |
| | Jason Remillard | | |
| | Jim Peregoy | X | |
| | Dan Patnaude | X | |
| | Darcy Schultz | X | |
| | Bob Ordemann | X | |

1. Call to Order

Funch called the meeting to order with the above committee members present at 07:05pm.

2. Approval of May Minutes

Reviewed the September 19, 2017 meeting minutes and minor changes to them. Lathrop moved to approve the minutes with changes; Peregoy seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously

2. Reports / Old Business

a) Guided Hikes

- 10/19 Wharton Plantation – Paul Funch; this is the last hike in a series of 3 guided hikes that were offered as a course by the newly formed Prescott School Community Center.
- 10/22 1PM Groton Hills - Olin Lathrop
 - This walk has it all, including deep woods, open fields, beaver ponds, and even bagging a 500-footer with good views. About 2 hours, moderate pace. Meet at the end of Kailey's Way.
- 12/10 1PM Town Forest - Olin Lathrop
 - Explore the varied topography and habitats of this scenic woodland, including eskers, kettle holes, dry upland, marsh, the dead river, and more. About 2 hours, moderate pace. Meet at end of Town Forest Road off of MA 225 in W Groton.

b) Boy Scout Projects

- Will Hughson bridges at Throne Hill
 - finished constructing 3 bridges at Throne Hill property
 - first step onto bridges is rather high, may need steps, perhaps rocks for bridges
- Jeremy Sickles bridge at Amanda's Way
 - finished constructing bridge and rerouting trail in Amanda's Way/Water Department's Whitney Pond
- Zach Miller's project
 - Installed trailhead posts at Northwoods (5); Integrity Way (Hemlock Grove) (2); Spencer Circle (Balcom Estates) (2); Scarlet Hill trail (corner of Shattuck St. & Martins Pond Rd.) (2); Cunningham Easement (Gratuity Rd.) (2); Wharton Plantation (Old Dunstable Rd.) (2); Sawtell (Chicopee Row) (1)
 - Funch has marked a sidewalk trail along Spencer Circle. Working with the Conservation Commission, a letter was sent to abutters. One has agreed to permit sign on tree on private property. Another has objected. Zach attempted to put a post and met resistance from one of the abutters. ConCom will follow up with Tom Delaney to determine next steps.

c) Signs Status

- A trail post was hacked away at Brookline-Pepperell railroad, where the trail goes into the woods by Shattuck farm and the Johnston property off of Wallace Road.
- No update on the signs Lathrop is working on for Groton Hills.
- Funch brought up accessibility standard for signs believed to be from the National Forest Service. The information required would make the signs rather busy, will consider what to do with the standard.

d) Website and Map status

- No update
- General Discussion
 - Need to be clear on interactive map regarding which trails we maintain. The trail off of Rockwood Lane was discussed and that perhaps it shouldn't be shown on the map. Lathrop suggested three categories for the trails: Official & maintained, Public not maintained, and Private (also not maintained).

e) Groton Trust Funds Lecture Grant 10/25 7pm at the Groton Public Library

- Mr. Westover is an accomplished conservationist, naturalist, bird watcher, trail builder, photographer, educator, and speaker.
- Funch asked who would like to join him for dinner with Pete Westover prior to Pete's talk on October 25th. Several members showed interest. Funch said he'd send out an email asking for confirmation of member attendance.

f) Trail Projects

- Per Lathrop, the Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for the Groton Hills bog bridge was approved October 10th – we have two years to complete project
- From Funch:

- Trailhead posts installed/replaced at Eliot Easement, McLain's Woods Rd., Batten Woods
 - Trails marked/remarked at Groton Woods, Throne, Wharton Plantation
 - Chainsawed trees off trails at Sabine Woods and Blackman
 - Mowed trails in Brooks Orchard, Still Meadow, Sabine Woods, Hurd, Surrenden Farm, McLain's Woods field
 - Trail Project #9 at Surrenden Farm September 30th. Cleared and widened the trails in the woods at Surrenden Farm (between the Groton School and the field)
 - Trail Project #10 – NEFF (New England Forestry Foundation) property off of Peabody street, entrance is blocked by downed trees. Trails are generally in good shape. NEFF may have plans to harvest the forest in a few weeks, in which case a different project will be selected.
 - There's substantial Knotweed invasive at the Keyes property - cutting it is counterproductive and the roots are deep. Have to spray each stem with poison and it's too late to start this year, will have to proceed in the spring.
- g) Volunteer Appreciation Gifts
- No update

3. Discussions / New Business

- a) Grotonfest
- Per Schultz: survey on signage, people want to see markers at major trail intersections. Twenty people included in survey. Green and white signs were ok. Everybody wants signs. The survey results are captured in the following URL:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-S6GZ3GFY8>
 - Want trail marker signs legend on the web page – white, yellow, blue, ... mean what?
 - Talked about writing an article in the local paper to highlight our web site.
 - Ordemann suggested that when we send a notice to the newspaper, we should include our website URL in the article.
 - Lathrop, Schultz and Funch discussed that QR codes should redirect to our interactive map.
- b) John Ellenberger's trail maps signs
- Lathrop suggested doing Williams barn, Funch brought up Throne Hill as a possibility
- c) 2018 Trail Committee Goals
- Schultz volunteered to talk to H&V about formally making trails near Lyman Conservation Restriction part of the trails network. Kathy Puff was suggested as the contact at H&V – she's the environmental officer at the company.
 - Ordemann offered to work with Rick Coven and Bob Zanelli from the Squannacook River Runners regarding marking the Town Forest Race trails.
 - Schultz offered to be a liaison to the 6-7th grade girls scouts. Discussed that finding 20 "kid friendly" points of interest on the trails could be fun for them.

4. Adjournment

Lathrop moved to adjourn, Peregoy seconded.

- Approved unanimously