



TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **November 21, 2017**

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of May Minutes

Reviewed the October 17, 2017 meeting minutes and minor changes to them. Peregoy moved to approve the minutes with changes; Patnaude seconded the motion.

- Approved unanimously

2. Reports / Old Business

a) Guided Hikes

- 10/22 – Groton Hills area. 18 participants attended

b) Eagle Scout Projects

- No updates this month

c) Signs Status

- No updates this month
- Discussion re Spencer Circle trailhead: The Highway Dept. is not willing to permit us to put a single trail post in the right-of-way along the Spencer Circle sidewalk due to the objection of an abutter. However, they are OK with putting arrows or other markings on

the sideway to indicate the way. In addition to doing that, or perhaps in place of doing that, we could put signs on either end of Spencer Circle (on the trailhead posts that are already there) that would say something like “Trail continues straight ahead on sidewalk.”

- General agreement that this sounds like a good idea. Are there any other signs which could be used to mark the way? A sign with words as suggested was agreed a good idea. Add description indicating route destination. Olin to add to the signs to make up next time.

d) Website and Map status

- Remillard reported activities this month - updating the map and making corrections as received. He also reported adding adjoining town trails from 10 towns as far afield as Acton
- Ordemann reported provisional update work he has been undertaking to the interactive map layers for the Town forest trails. Next will be to work with Remillard to make the necessary changes to live site.
- The group reviewed the advantage of making GPX files available for people to download. Where to make these routes available on the website was discussed. Remillard to review with Ordemann and Patnaude and report back next meeting.
- Ordemann also described work he had done making the property boundaries available on the interactive map alongside the trails as a layer. Ordemann to work with Jason to add this to the website.
- From funds donated to the trails committee by the Town Forest Trail Races, Ordemann made a motion to purchase new markers to remark the Town Forest trails, up to the value of \$600. Patnaude seconded the motion.
 - Approved unanimously

e) MA Trails Conference Reports

- Olin reported four committee members attended (Funch, Lathrop, Murray and Ordemann) and some of the comments/feedback/thoughts made by the speakers was discussed.

f) Trail Projects

- Ordemann reported cleaning up Shepley Hills
- Peregoy reported cleaning up activities on Groton Hills
- Patnaude reported clean-up work at Sabine Woods (Groton Place – “The Dog Park”)
- Lathrop noted that we should as a matter of courtesy inform NEFF and GCT. There are formal agreements with NEFF and the Groton Conservation Trust to work on their land.

g) Trails Committee Volunteer Appreciation Gifts Status

- Legge reported - T-shirts – work with Darcy to make this happen
- Hats being worked on as well

3. Discussions / New Business

- Bruce reported on the Squannacook River Rail Trail activities and the progress/challenges to move this project forward. Permitting is the current activity for Phase 1.
- Discussion of Committee's Goals for 2018 (20th anniversary!)
 - a. Legge discussed how to join the trails "Walk about Groton." The grand tour of Groton trails - how we can make a route including all the trails linking the whole network and then having a awards to award people for completing
 - i. Guided hikes to help people complete some of this challenge
 - ii. Buses to move people where trails don't arrive back at the start. Senior Center has buses which could be utilized?
 - iii. Could the new Inn be included as a stop off/destination?
- General discussion about connections between existing trails and links/easements and purchase of land to make new connections possible. Linking the Groton trails network together

4. Adjournment

Peregoy moved to adjourn at 8:22pm, Ordemann seconded.

- Approved unanimously