



TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **January 16, 2018**

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

1. Call to Order

Funch called the meeting to order with the above committee members present at 07:02pm.

2. Approval of November Minutes

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

- Approved unanimously

3. Reports / Old Business

a) Guided Hikes

- Lathrop reported:
 - 5 hikes to come – Sunday 1pm
 - Sun 21 Jan 2018 13:00, The Throne, Groton
 - Sun 11 Feb 2018 13:00, Fitch's Bridge to Hayes Woods, Groton
 - Sun 11 Mar 2018 13:00, J Harry Rich State Forest, Groton
 - Sun 15 Apr 2018 13:00, Groton Traverse
 - Sun 20 May 2018 13:00, Rocky Hill Sanctuary and adjoining woodlands, Groton
- Hikes in Jan, Feb, Mar to be announced

b) Gift Funds

- Funch reported funds held by Town for Trails Committee stands at: \$8,506.23
- c) Signs Status
 - No update
- d) Website and Map status
 - Remillard reported:
 - Couple small edits to the website were completed in the last month
 - Discussed future updates to the welcome page and create an activities page
 - New drop-down menu for the properties to ease space on other pages – reduce the home page content
 - Blaze colors into the OpenStreet Map – Funch to supply these details
 - Montachusett now has our mapping data
 - WangFang suggested adding News items to the website and not having this only on Facebook and through the mailing list. Remillard to review options.
 - Update from Ordemann on his work on the mapping overlays
 - Patnaude reported his progress with the Mountain Bike mapping to subsequently be added to the overlay
 - Lathrop reported his trail updates in the Radin Road area.
- e) Trail Projects Reports
 - Funch reported:
 - Easom was invited to report on the Gibbett Hill bridge project. Easom informed the Committee that the DCR grant application had been signed by the Town Manager and sent to Amanda Lewis @ DCR. The next items are to confirm the spec and get quotes for wood / granite. Conservation Commission pre-site visit is required / Notice of Intent. Then get the heavy items onto site before the ground thaws.
 - Townsend rail trail project – add some more details please...
 - Marion Stoddart River walk – first draft submission by Friday 19 Jan and final on the 15th March. Good support from various land owners, interested parties, but ongoing discussions to confirm necessary remaining support needed. There is a high risk the grant application will need to be withdrawn and wait until next year if a key land owner does not support the application.
 - Ordemann reported on some of his trail maintenance activities
- f) Trails Committee Volunteer Appreciation Gifts Status
 - No update
 - Grace Remillard appreciation gift – Plaque in recognition of her work on the website. Funch agreed to review options.
- g) Other items
 - Funch reported to the committee that pictures are still being sort by the MRTC
 - Hidden Treasurers – 2018 event request for activities to be offered.

4. Discussions / New Business

h) Committee Goals

- Funch discussed options for the Committee to consider:
 - Nashoba Valley Voice articles – public awareness
 - Education items at local events
 - Speaking events
 - Website information – continued improvements
 - Collaborations – such as the Montachusett Regional Trails Comm, NRWA, NEFF, DCR, GHS
 - Conservation Forum – Feb 15 meeting
 - Grants – such as the Marion Stoddart River walk
 - Trail Inventory data – such as bio-habitat impacts, signage, trail marking
 - Trail Projects – such as Chamberlains Mill, Gibbett Hill bridge/bog bridge, Cox walker bridge, whispering brook, Eagle Scout projects, trail mapping updates and trail marketing projects.
 - Trail maintenance

i) Invitations for discussion with Major open space landowners

- Funch reviewed that the Committee such make regular invitations to organizations such as NEFF, Conservation Commission to present their objectives and initiatives which may affect trails in Groton

j) Annual Report

- Funch invited committee members to submit items for the annual report. Legge agreed to write the report. The report is due Feb 02 2018.
 - 165 individual projects completed in 2017
 - 426 volunteer hours completed overall of which 268 hours were completed by trail committee members.
 - Eagle Scout projects - various
 - Events attended – Mass State Trails Conf, Leminster where Lathrop and Funch presented to the event. Organized the annual Groton Conservation Forum.
 - Guided hikes completed and number of participants
 - Website redesign, update and maintenance

5. Adjournment

Lathrop moved to adjourn at 9pm, Peregoy seconded.

- Approved unanimously