



# TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **March 20, 2018**

| <b>Attendees:</b> |                 |   | <b>Visitors:</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Chairman          | Paul Funch      | X |                  |
| Vice Chair        | Olin Lathrop    | X |                  |
| Secretary         | Tim Newman      |   |                  |
| <b>Members</b>    | Wanfang Murray  |   |                  |
|                   | David Burnham   |   |                  |
|                   | Stephen Legge   | X |                  |
|                   | Jason Remillard | X |                  |
|                   | 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 7 pm.

### **2. Approval of January Minutes**

Reviewed the February 20, 2018 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) Trails Committee Exceptional Volunteer Award - Grace Remillard was presented with a plaque for service to the GTC. In particular, she aided in the re-design and implementation of the updated grotontrails.org website, from 2016-2018.
- b) Guided Hikes
  - Lathrop reported:
    - Hike in Harry Rich State Forest with 6 people attending
    - Groton Traverse: Groton Traverse has been moved from 4/15 to 4/29. The hike begins at Williams Barn, and goes to Dan Parker Rd. April 29 is the same day as the Groton Road Races, but they are expected to be completed before the 1pm start time, so no impact is expected.
    - Rocky Hill Sanctuary, 5/20

- Funch is leading a hike for Hidden Treasures, “Hike to the Center of the Swarm,” at 1:00 pm on 5/19, at Williams Barn.
- Murray is leading a Hidden Treasures hike, “Listen to the Spring,” on the NRRT at 8:30 am on 5/26. The hike will be focused on bird watching.

c) Trail Projects Reports

- Marion Stoddart Riverwalk: Funch submitted the final application. Landowner Robert Taisey approves of the project but wishes to transfer ownership of his parcel that abuts the Nashua River to the west of the Partridgeberry subdivision before giving his formal approval. Conservation Commission is potentially interested in purchasing the land. The next milestone for this application is 3/26, when the Community Preservation Committee will vote on which projects to recommend to Town Meeting.
- Groton Hills: Project on building bog bridges was discussed. Questions about the length of the bridge (50-100 ~~ft~~ft.) and also about whether horses will be able to cross the deeper sections once a bridge is in place. Lathrop continues to investigate.
- Still Meadow: Beaver activity is resulting in extensive damage. The possibility of a moveable bog bridge was raised. The bridge would be moved when the field needed to be mowed.
- Other: Ordemann reported completing extensive trail clearing of many downed trees. He asks that locations of downed trees be marked using GPS so that they’re easier for him to find.
- Amanda Lewis (DCR): Bruce Easom and Lathrop inspected Gibbet Hill site for new bridge location with Amanda.
- Ordemann proposed a walkthrough of Hawtree and Torrey Woods Conservation Areas in order to assess water levels and property bounds.
- Continued discussion on trails across private lands. Aim is to establish easements, if possible, in order to protect access and corridors between public lands

4. Sign Status:

- Lathrop confirmed he will meet with Schultz and Funch on 3/30, @ 3:30, to review his draft plans for Groton Hills signs.
- Peregoy noted that the new signs are being well received by the general public.
- It was noted that the Mahoney Lane sign that fell down and put next to the tree is now missing.

5. Website/Map status:

- An overlay of long trails (> 10 miles) are now on the Interactive Map site
- Patnaude asked for export ability so the long trails can be output as “turn by turn” GPX or TCX files, for use with a GPS device. Patnaude took action to create the files.
- NEFF’s Deputy Director and Attorney will visit with GTC in May to discuss trail issues of common interest.
- It was suggested that GTF race maps be color coded to match race markers.
- There was a long discussion on the owner of the land behind West Groton Fire Station.
- “Quests” were removed from the website because they have not been maintained. Schultz proposed that these might be a good project for the Girl Scouts to pursue.

**4. Discussions / New Business**

- a) Rich State Forest: Funch attended a public hearing in Leominster, held by DCR, on their forestry plan for an upcoming (2019-2020) harvest in RSF. The planned area includes a trail that is adjacent to Sand Hill Rd and exits near the NRRT parking area. The trail had DCR approval but was never formalized. A plan will be put forth to formalize the trail so that it will be taken into consideration when logging commences.
- b) Funch presented a letter of support for a MRPC grant to DCR's Recreation Trail Program that fund printing of an updated Montachusett Regional Trails Map. Lathrop made a motion to approve the letter. Peregoy seconded.
  - Unanimously approved
- c) Legge presented ideas for logo items. A small towel with two graphics was discussed. Jason will provide a SVG of the GTC trail marker. Lathrop made a motion to authorize Legge to use \$400 to create logo towels. Patnaude seconded
  - Unanimously approved
- d) GTC will participate in Groton Greenway River Festival on 6/10. Four (4) volunteers are needed.
- e) Discussion ensued on opening the Groton Trails Facebook (FB) page. The FB page will become open to posting by those who "like" the page, and GTC members will become moderators. Shultz made a motion that GTC members become moderators of Groton Trails FB page. Patnaude seconded the motion
  - Seven (7) approved with one (1) abstention
- f) Patnaude raised the question by Nashoba Dirt Organization (NDO) about the possible use of a "snow dog" on Groton trails. The snow dog would be used to groom trails for fat biking in the snow. The opinion of the committee is that the NDO should formalize a proposed route and contact the landowners or land managers directly.

## **5. Adjournment**

| Lathrop moved to adjourn at 8:55 pm, Peregoy seconded.

- Approved unanimously