



TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****
April 17, 2018

| Attendees: | | | Visitors: |
|------------|-----------------|---|--------------|
| Chairman | Paul Funch | X | Matthew Wong |
| Vice Chair | Olin Lathrop | | Ted Lapres |
| Secretary | Tim Newman | | Mark Gerath |
| Members | Wanfang Murray | X | |
| | Stephen Legge | X | |
| | Jason Remillard | X | |
| | Jim Peregoy | X | |
| | Dan Patnaude | X | |
| | Darcy Schultz | | |
| | Bob Ordemann | X | |
| | (Vacant) | | |

1. Call to Order

Funch called the meeting to order with six of the above committee members present at 7:15 pm. Steve Legge joined mid-meeting.

2. Discussion with Groton Conservation Trust Officers

Ted Lapres (President) and Mark Gerath (Vice President) from the Groton Conservation Trust attended the meeting to discuss issues of common interest to GCT and the Trails Committee.

- Issue of Bridge at Still Meadow – needs to be 40-50 feet, but still allow a tractor through
- Bridge at Groton Hills approved (negative RDA) and abuts GCT land
- Trail from Indian Hill Rd. that passes over a conservation restriction on private property isn't marked on the Groton Trails map. Gerath mentioned that abutters, the Lotz's, are concerned about their privacy and don't want to be disturbed by people on the trail.
- There is a potential summer trail project on a new GCT parcel.
- Discussed the use of Groton Trails Network maps on the GCT website, and also referencing the GCT property descriptions on the Trails website as a pragmatic sharing of expertise and resources.

3. Review of March Minutes

Reviewed the March 20, 2018 meeting minutes. Further changes to the minutes are required, thus approval was not requested at the April meeting.

4. Reports / Old Business

- a) Eagle Project Status Update from Matthew Wong
 - Matthew is working on a geofencing Android mobile phone application for his Eagle

Scout project. He has approval from the Scouts and (tonight) from the Trails Committee. The general idea is to have the application alert trail users when they come across points of interest on the trail, and then provide them with a description of the location. Matthew has a team of Scout developers writing the application in C-Sharp (C#), and he will post the code to github. Matthew has six months to complete his project. Funch has provided several points of interest and Matthew will be walking the trails to ensure the phone signal is adequate where there are points of interest.

b) Guided Hikes

- No update

c) Trail Projects

- Ordemann cleared trees from trails in Town Forest, the Red Line Trail (near Transfer Station), Groton Place, the trail west of the Nashua River between Fitch's Bridge and Hill Road, Sawtell Conservation Area, and on Gibbet Hill.
- All known trail blockages have been cleared.

d) Signs Status

- Paul reviewed the signs that the Sign Subcommittee (Lathrop, Funch, Schultz) developed for the Groton Hills area trails. Peregoy moved that we approve the signs as designed; Patnaude seconded the motion. The vote was six in favor of and one against the motion. Remillard voted against the motion reasoning that there were too many signs being placed in a relatively small area.

e) Website and Map status

- Remillard investigated creating paper maps of the Groton Trails system. Jason first looked at waterproof Tyvek maps as sold by the Appalachian Mountain Club. He was quoted \$1700 for 100 maps and \$3100 for 1000 maps. The committee didn't believe we could sell 1000 maps, and the cost for 100 was too high. Jason will look at alternative "paper" media for the maps.
- Patnaude showed a "turn-by-turn" view of the Groton Tour overlay map on the "Ride with GPS" application. The application also provided an altitude profile of the 18-mile trek. Dan explained that we can use the geojson file used for the overlay map, create a GPX file from it, and allow users to download it to a device of their choice for navigation. On a long trek it's easy to make a wrong turn, so having a navigation device with the route saves time and confusion on the trail. The presentation was well received.

5. Discussions / New Business

a) Trails Committee Seat Vacancy

- Dave Burnham resigned from the Trails Committee. The vacancy is posted on the Town website. Funch will send a note to the Trails volunteer email listserver and Jason will create a post for the Trails Facebook page regarding the vacancy.

b) Liaisons with Key Committees, Boards, Commissions

- Funch expressed a desire to have liaisons to partner organizations: Groton Conservation Trust (Funch), New England Forestry Foundation (Schultz), Conservation Commission (Lathrop), Town Forest (Lathrop?), Mass Audubon Society (Lathrop?), Department of Conservation and Recreation (Funch), Planning Board (Remillard).
- Funch mentioned that the Town Forest Committee meets just once a year, and that having a maintenance agreement with Mass Audubon and DCR may not be possible.

Nevertheless, it is important for the Trails Committee to keep in touch with these organizations.

- Remillard volunteered to review the agenda of the Planning Board to determine if any item of interest to the Trails Committee occurs and to inform the committee.

6. Adjournment

Remillard moved to adjourn at 9:04 pm, Peregoy seconded.

- Approved unanimously