



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **July 17, 2018**

<b>Attendees:</b>			(Present: x)	<b>Visitors:</b>
Chairman	Paul Funch		x	
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop		x	Wendy Good
Secretary	Tim Newman			Ryan McMeniman (prospective GTC)
<b>Members</b>	Wanfang Murray		x	Eli Sun
	Bob Ordemann		x	
	Stephen Legge		x	
	Jason Remillard		x	
	Jim Peregoy		x	
	Dan Patnaude		x	
	Kevin Barrett		x	
	(Vacant)			

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Funch called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Kevin Barrett, who has been sworn in, was welcomed as the newest member of the Trails Committee.

### **Approval of May Minutes**

**VOTE:** Ordemann moved to approve the minutes, as amended, of May 15, 2018 and Peregoy seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Signs Status:**

Lathrop has layouts and wording for six signs for the Groton Hills area, including the Floyd CA, Ripley Forest and Wharton Plantation. There was a discussion of the trail routings and effects on mileages. Decision made to go ahead with the mileages already measured because variations are small and inconsequential.

### **Liaison with and Requests from Groton Inn Management:**

Lathrop reported the Groton Inn is considering developing a "Fall Get-Away" package for visitors to the inn. They propose to offer hikes in the town and surrounding area, organized and led by the Trails Committee (GTC). Groton Inn may want to have these hikes for five weekends from

September 21<sup>st</sup> to October 19<sup>th</sup>, for about two hours duration. Inn guests would be expected to drive to the trailhead in their own vehicles.

There will be a meeting with the management on Friday July 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM. Lathrop will attend and represent GTC. Other members are invited if interested. Committee members suggested as candidates for the hikes, the Williams Barn area, Shepley Hills, and the Town Forest. Good parking in the area would be helpful. Funch, Patnaude and Ryan McMeniman (visitor and Groton Road Race director) offered to lead possible hikes. It was suggested all such hikes also be open to the public.

### **Towels and Koozies for the GTC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year:**

Funch mentioned towels and beverage “koozies” had been designed and acquired to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the GTC. Seventy towels and fifty koozies were produced. These were first available for display and sale at the Groton Greenway River Festival event on June 10<sup>th</sup>. It was proposed and generally accepted to charge 2X the cost of these items (\$10 for towels, \$2 for koozies), proceeds to be set aside for possible future acquisition of additional items for PR. Some of the items would be used as rewards or thank yous to the public for their work or achievements.

**VOTE:** The Committee approved for payment an invoice for \$418.63 presented by Legge.

### **Hedge Trimmer Acquisition:**

Funch presented an invoice for \$360 for a new cordless electric hedge trimmer (lithium ion battery). Purchase of the trimmer was previously approved by the Committee. It has the advantage of lighter weight and ease of use for remote trail maintenance operations.

### **Committee Open Seat:**

Bill Greathead and Ryan McMeniman submitted applications to fill the vacant seat caused by the resignation of Darcy Schultz in June. Greathead withdrew his application a few days before the meeting.

**VOTE:** Ordemann moved to recommend McMeniman to the Town Manager for the open seat; Barrett seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Anna Eliot’s Invitation to Celebrate the GTC and Friends of the Trails:**

Ms. Eliot invited all friends of the trails to her house on the afternoon of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM.

### **Trail Maintenance Projects Reports:**

Funch: Since May, Ordemann and he have mowed and chain sawed in many parcels to restore good condition. Refer to the attached spreadsheet tracking maintenance activities.

Funch asked all to consider doing more to assist with routine maintenance of parcels. There is very much work to do and more hands, of course, are better. Those moving the brush mower to a parcel would need a 2 inch trailer hitch on their vehicle.

Ordemann reported progress marking (with new markers) major portions of the two **Town Forest** Trail Race routes (3.4 miles and 9.5 miles). The short course is marked with blue markers, the long one with white markers. Ordemann also did an audit of existing and needed non-existing intersection numbers. He believes it would be best to retain the old system of letters (sections of the TF) and numbers (intersections) for the most part, but to add some new numbers for new trails and intersections. Ordemann offered to start work on a new updated map. Legge offered to give Ordemann metal trail marker blanks from the original numbering done in 1999-2000.

Legge mentioned the EMTs and police were at one time informed with a map of the Town Forest numbering system, but could probably benefit from the new map, especially since so much time has elapsed.

Funch and Ordemann cleaned up a large tree fall at **Wattles Pond**. Funch mentioned a need for a bridge over a very wet beaver-flooded area between the two fields of **Still Meadow**. He suggested using an aluminum ladder-like scaffolding that might be supported by granite or concrete blocks and have minimal environmental impact. The Conservation Commission would need to weigh in on this idea after approval from the Groton Conservation Trust is secured.

### **Eagle Scout Projects for 2018:**

Lathrop reported Cole Pisani, Max Prescott and Matt Wong had shown interest in pursuing projects. Mr. Pisani is interested in building a **bog bridge** in the **Groton Hills Conservation Area**. Mr. Prescott proposes building an adjacent **horse bridge**.

Mr. Wong proposes a **geo-fencing project** in the **Gibbett Hill, Groton Place and Town Forest** areas. Geo fencing is defined as a virtual perimeter for a real-world geographic area. A geo-fence could be dynamically generated—as in a radius around a point location, or a geo-fence can be a predefined set of boundaries which can be received on a cell phone or other mobile device. Such virtually marked areas would coincide with selected points of interest, and a cell phone could alert the user of proximity to points of interest and could also provide a description of what is nearby.

### **New Business:**

Legge suggested incorporating an “Honor Roll” of persons and organizations who donate time and effort to Trails projects during the year, to be included in the **Town Annual Report**.

Remillard suggested a contest inviting high school-age students to create and write pages for the **Groton Trails website**. He hopes to get fresh creative input to the site in this way. He said he has spoken to an art teacher at LA who seems interested in this. He also suggested photography input from GDRHS.

**VOTE:** Lathrop moved to support Remillard’s idea to go to the schools and ask for help from students. Patnaude seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Funch said **Grotonfest** this year will be held on Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>. The rain date will

probably be the Sunday following. He said the fee for non-profits like us has been raised to \$75. The Groton Business Association will take charge of Grotonfest this year from Jane Bouvier.

Lathrop reported about 35 more people signed up for the Trails project notice list at our booth at the **Groton Greenway River Festival**.

Funch presented a draft letter to the Committee, addressed to the **Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee**, offering a formal declaration of support for the Nashua, Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan.

**VOTE:** Lathrop moved to accept the letter, Ordemann seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Groton Complete Streets Committee Status:**

Legge presented a report on the current status of projects proposed, accepted by the state for special grant funding and under construction this calendar year. A summary is attached to the minutes.

### **Project Planning for the Summer and the Remainder of the Year:**

Murray and Funch discussed the organization of maintenance projects.

It was suggested to write more articles for the papers to better inform the public.

Suggestion was made to increase liaison with abutting towns and regional organizations, so as to promote projects between and among other towns.

Funch reminded everyone to continue watching the parcels for which they are responsible (assigned last year), and keep the Committee abreast of maintenance needs.

Funch mentioned the need for trail markers in the **Skitapet Conservation Land**.

### **Adjournment:**

**VOTE:** The meeting was adjourned with unanimous consent at 9:02 PM.

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