



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\***

**August 21, 2018**

<b>Attendees:</b>			(Present: x)	<b>Visitors:</b>
Chairman	Paul Funch		x	Matt Wong
Vice Chair	Olin Lathrop			
Secretary	Tim Newman			
<b>Members</b>	Bob Ordemann		x	
	Jason Remillard			
	Jim Peregoy		x	
	Kevin Barrett		x	
	Ryan McMeniman		x	
	Stephen Legge		x	
	Wanfang Murray			
	Open Seat			

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Reports/Old Business**

- Ryan McMeniman, who has been sworn in, was welcomed as the newest member of the Trails Committee.
- Recognition of Dan Patnaude's resignation.

### **Approval of July Minutes**

**VOTE:** Peregoy moved to approve; Ordemann seconded; unanimous vote to approve

**Summer Trails Celebration at Anna Elliot's:** scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm

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

- **Groton Hills Bridge, Max Preston** - No Report
- **Geo Caching, Matt Wong** - Finishing up testing, but planning to hand off app code to the Committee. Groton Place and Town Forest completed.

### **New Business:**

**Squannacook River Rail Trail Support Request** - Peter Cunningham provided an overview of the project and requested formal letter of support from the Groton Trails Committee. The Committee agreed to write a letter of support for the SqRRT Project to the Groton Conservation Commission.

**VOTE:** Funch offered to write a letter of support; motion to approve Funch's writing of the letter was made by Peregoy; Ordemann seconded the motion; unanimous vote of approval.

**Discussion Input to the Master Plan Implementation Committee** - The Committee suggested that the Conservation Commission continue to purchase additional parcels of land, thus giving the public additional access to connected parcels. In addition, we suggested language to support preservation of existing trails and the creation of new trails. Lastly, we recommended that the Planning Board seek timely input from all of the various organizations in town that had a stake in trails.

**VOTE:** Funch offered to write a letter to respond to the MPIC's request for input; motion to approve Funch's writing of the letter was made by Peregoy; Ordemann seconded the motion; unanimous vote of approval.

**Respectful conversations** - Funch had a meeting with Town Manager Mark Haddad regarding concerns raised by Darcy Schultz. Darcy recently resigned as a member of the Trails Committee.

We discussed ways to ensure that all future members feel like they have a voice at the table and that all conversations are respectful.

We asked whether or not there were solid guidelines around decorum to be exercised at Committee meetings. Funch offered to check with Town Manager.

Darcy was invited to rejoin the committee by Town Manager Haddad. Our understanding is that she declined the offer.

**Grotonfest Support** - The Committee discussed how we would support Grotonfest. Getting the trailer to the event is probably the biggest issue. Grotonfest scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Project Planning for the Summer and the Remainder of the Year** - Funch identified 2 weekends of projects at the Town Forest. Project 3 is to be scheduled for Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Town Forest and Project # 4 to be scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> again at the Town Forest.

Funch also identified a trail off of Whispering Brook that most likely will require surveying given the proximity to private property. It may be necessary to ask the Con Com to fund a formal survey.

Funch mentioned the opening of the new trail behind Marion Stoddart's house off of Long Hill Rd.

We discussed the property behind Ryan's house that is owned by Lawrence Academy.

**Adjournment:**

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

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