



# TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **September 18, 2018**

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

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Reports/Old Business**

- Discussion about very nice celebration at Anna Eliot's on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Funch stated that he provided the letter of support to Squannacook Greenways and had sent copies to the members.
- Funch mentioned that there was confusion about what sort of input was intended to be requested by the Master Plan Implementation Committee; apparently the Master Plan Implementation Committee was looking for input on past performance and not the update.

**Approval of August Minutes** – Ordemann moved to accept minutes of August 21 as amended; McMeniman seconded.

**VOTE:** Funch, Ordemann, Legge, McMeniman approved. Lathrop, Murray, Remillard abstained

**Election of Officers** – Officer elections not held in July or August as they should have been.

Chair – Lathrop nominated Funch; Funch is willing to continue.

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval

Vice Chair – Lathrop indicated he is willing to continue being Vice Chair; Funch nominated Ordemann; Lathrop agreed that new person would be helpful and agreed that Ordemann was a good choice; Ordemann said he's willing to accept the nomination; Lathrop withdrew his acceptance.

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval

Secretary – McMeniman said he would serve as secretary; Funch made motion to elect McMeniman as Secretary; Lathrop seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval

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

- **Groton Hills Bridge, Max Preston** – No Report
- **Geo Caching, Matt Wong** – Back-up information provided to Committee. Wong previously provided credentials and other information required to make the app run properly. Wong provided flyers for Grotonfest. Application officially transitioned to Committee control. Additional discussion about on-going support and promotion of the application, potentially shifting responsibility to another Eagle Scout candidate in the future.

**Guided Hikes** – Lathrop provided update on past guided hikes: May (Rocky Hill), 9 people attended; June (Hayes), 9 people attended; and July (Throne), 19 people attended. Lathrop provided information on upcoming hikes as part of the Groton Inn's "Fabulous Fall" series consisting of five (5) hikes on Saturdays at 1 pm. Hikes to be promoted by the Groton Inn and the AMC, including promotional material provided to the Groton Inn. Lathrop to resend promotional material to Remillard and McMeniman.

Future guided hikes to include the following:

- Sept. 22 (Sorhaug Woods, aka Williams Barn)
- Sept. 29 (Rich State Forest)
- Oct. 6 (Town Forest)
- Oct. 13 (Gamlin Esker Trail)
- Oct. 20 (Groton Place; Sabine Woods) – Lathrop not able to make it; Murray and Funch volunteered; Legge mentioned that the new sidewalk will be completed in time

**Signs** – Lathrop order 12 signs for the Groton Hills area, but is still awaiting order confirmation and availability of smaller poles for mounting. Discussion regarding expansion of signage eastward from Williams Barn. Lathrop suggested using metal poles moving forward instead of trees. Funch reminded Lathrop about sign near Williams Barn on Mahoney Lane.

**Grotonfest Support** – The Committee discussed staffing. McMeniman and Ordemann to setup. Remillard, Legge, Lathrop (partial), and Peregoy also attending. McMeniman, Ordemann, Legge to tear down. McMeniman to return trailer to Funch residence.

## **New Business:**

**Committee Applicants** – Funch discussed open position on committee due to resignation by Dan Patnaude. Funch introduced Kiirja Paananen, who provided her background: outdoor enthusiast; horse owner for 20 yrs.; software engineer working for MIT; participated in Nashua River clean up and turtle protection initiative; actively participates in guided hikes and organized trail projects; Lunenburg resident; Lunenburg Library Trustee for several years; interested in signage and improvements in the Town Forest; willing to help with other light duty trail cleaning; willing to lead hikes and snowshoeing.

Lathrop moved to recommend Kiirja to the Town Manager based on past experience. Ordemann seconded the motion.

Legge suggested that we need to hear from other candidates. Funch mentioned that one other candidate stated that she would concede to other candidates who could attend meeting.

Legge asked about the deadline. Funch noted that today's meeting was the deadline because we need to make a recommendation to Town Manager. Legge and Funch continued to discuss the clarity of the deadline. Funch indicated that the late candidate understood that her application might be too late. Murray concurred with Legge's concern and stated that enough time may not have been given. Funch conceded that perhaps the deadline should have been more explicit. Legge wanted to make sure the Committee was being fair about the communication of the deadline. Remillard wanted to make sure we don't discourage future candidates. Funch stated that he will be more explicit in future communications. Ordemann asked if we keep applications on file. It was confirmed that past candidates are informed of openings.

Funch asked for a vote on Paananen's application to recommend her to the Town Manager. Seconded by Lathrop.

**VOTE:** Unanimous approval

After vote, Lathrop and Funch reviewed the process for recommendation and approval by the Select Board and confirmed that Paananen does not have any action until it is time to be sworn in; guest Good suggested that other applicants be communicated with regarding the decision. Funch concurred that he would do this.

**Trail Projects Reports** – Funch stated that there has on-going mowing. Update from Ordemann on tree cutting and other clean-up, including Hayes and Taisey CR properties where there were a significant number of trees down. Lathrop mentioned a tree down on Blood Road off Old Dunstable, location noted on map. Guest Pelletier asked about reporting on maintenance needs. Funch mentioned that the Committee encourages abutters to help out but asked that they do not use chainsaws. McMeniman discussed using social media to report downed trees.

**General Discussion** – Funch discussed current and future land acquisition and usage. First, Funch discussed two (2) properties west of the Senior Center that the Conservation Committee has signed a purchase and sale to acquire. Both properties are landlocked and unbuildable and abut Hemlock Grove and Lawrence Park parcels and provide outstanding trail network connections. General discussion about future trails clean-up project after acquisition is complete. Lathrop mentioned that motorized vehicles are allowed in Hemlock Grove per deed restriction. Discussion about parking at the location of a future trailhead and potential access on existing Senior Center’s land. Lathrop said that this would be challenging due to conservation restriction (CR).

Lathrop discussed the 24-acre parcel on Longley Road, which was willed to the Conservation Commission. Lathrop stated that this parcel could enable a connection from Longley Rd. to Fitch Woods. Ordemann discussed the parking issue at the trailhead and how this has been a concern of abutting residents.

Funch discussed Maple Ave parcels near Hayes Woods. Lathrop stated that heirs of the property owner would like to have the Conservation Commission acquire the land. Legge asked about funding for the acquisition. Lathrop stated that the funds were available.

Lathrop mentioned land on Pepperell Road that is under consideration for future acquisition (via a land grant). Lathrop stated that the land grant would need to be listed next year. Guest Good mentioned that the land has been listed for sale. It was noted that this parcel would provide connection to the Throne trails.

Funch mentioned another property adjacent to Martin’s Pond. Lathrop said it was very early in the process.

Lathrop discussed the Brooks Orchard property that currently has an APR on it. More discussions about future acquisition and trail location.

Guest Pelletier asked for clarification on which organizations buy property and which maintain property. Funch, Lathrop, and Legge provided clarification.

Funch discussed the Townsend Road property where a subdivision is planned. He wanted to make sure that the interests of the Trails Committee are represented at the upcoming planning board meeting.

## **Adjournment**

**VOTE:** The meeting was adjourned with a unanimous vote at 9:09 PM.