



TOWN OF GROTON

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



Groton Trails Committee

** Monthly Meeting Minutes **

January 15, 2019

Attendees:		(Present: X)	Visitors:
Chair	Paul Funch	X	Nancy Cappallo
Vice Chair	Bob Ordemann	X	
Secretary	Ryan McMeniman	X	
Members	Olin Lathrop	X	
	Jason Remillard	X	
	Jim Peregoy	X	
	Kevin Barrett	X	
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Wanfang Murray	X	
	Kiirja Paananen	X	
	Jonna Branigan		

Call to Order

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Approval of November Minutes

VOTE: Lathrop moved to approve the minutes, as amended, of December 18, 2018 and Peregoy and Barrett seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously. Paananen abstained.

Guided Hikes

Upcoming hikes: January 27th Duck Pond. Additional hikes planned through June. Remillard will post on social media.

Paananen conducted three hikes in November and December: Rocky Hill (4 people); Williams Barn (8 people); Groton Town Forest (4 people). Paananen conducted a hike in January: Throne (8 people). Paananen will post future hikes on MeetUp. Funch suggested future hikes might benefit from having a theme that relates to the Committee's mission and related topics (e.g., birding).

Sign Status

Lathrop to confirm delivery date of metal poles from MassCorr.

Trail Projects Reports & Expenditures

Ordemann reported that several properties had down trees that have been cleared. Murray noted that there has been additional work done in J. Harry Rich Forest. Paananen noted that Wharton Plantation forestry work appears to have impacted trails significantly. Funch noted that additional remediation work may be done in spring. McMeniman noted that a report of trash on the Redline Trail via social media that will be investigated further.

NRWA Trail Signs Grant

A grant has been given to the NRWA for signage and points of interest along the Nashua River Rail Trail, in the Town Forest, and Wharton Plantation. Determination of the signage locations will be coordinated with DCR, the Town Forest Committee, and NEFF.

Complete Street

Legge stated that 2018 requests have not been granted yet and will provide an update at the February Committee meeting.

Website & Map Status

Lathrop reported that Rocky Hill Wildlife Sanctuary and Snake Hill have been remapped, and OSM has been updated. Lathrop noted that some trails need clearing near Snake Hill, but the Committee does not have permission from the Audubon Society. Remillard to ensure that new trails are added to the GTC map. Funch and Lathrop to reconnect with Audubon Society point-of-contact. Ordemann displayed a version of the GTC map to review trails managed by the Committee and showed overlays of trails marked with GTC markers (white, yellow, blue tags) that show those colors.

Paquawket Path Easement Report

Ordemann and Lathrop met with Groton Town Counsel. Recommendation is to arrange a meeting with Groton Conservation Commission in advance of a discussion with the homeowner regarding the easement.

Other Reports/Announcements

Lathrop reviewed newly acquired parcels, including: 24-acre property off Longley Rd. near Mahoney Lane/Fitch-Woods/Fritz and Helen Walker Conservation Area that will be called the Best-Fitch Woods; and a one-acre property on Winding Way that connects to Groton Woods Conservation Area.

2018 Annual Report

Legge provided a draft of the report to the Committee. Feedback provided by several members of the Committee. Legge noted a deadline for all feedback should be no later than Friday, January 18th.

2019 Goals and “To Do” List

Funch reviewed list of proposed activities and opened the floor for discussion.

Adjournment:

VOTE: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:00 PM.