



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **February 19, 2019**

| Attendees: | | (Present: X) | Visitors: |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Chair | Paul Funch | X | |
| 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 | | |
| | Kiirja Paananen | X | |
| | Jonna Branigan | X | |

Call to Order

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

Approval of November Minutes

VOTE: Peregoy moved to approve the minutes, as amended, of January 15, 2019 and Ordemann seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously. Branigan abstained.

Guided Hikes

Completed hikes: January 27, Duck Pond and Groton Woods, 21 participants; February 17, Fitch's Woods, Williams Barn, Walker, 5 participants. Paananen also conducted hikes on February 16 in Rocky Hill, 9 participants; February 3 in the Groton Town Forest, 8 participants.

Upcoming hikes: Sunday, March 10, Northeast Groton; Sunday, April 14, Rocky Hill Sanctuary and adjoining woodlands; Sunday, May 19, The General Field and Surrenden Farm; Sunday, June 23, Groton Hills.

Discussion regarding posting of upcoming hike information. Branigan to coordinate with Remillard to post on social media and coordinate with Paananen to post on Meetup.

Sign Status

Lathrop reported that poles will be shipping from vendor. No specific date provided.

Trail Projects Reports & Expenditures

Several committee members noted that there were few down trees recently. Funch noted that work on Throne bridges will be a priority in the spring. Bill Neacy, resident of Castle Drive, reported to Funch that there were some trees down in Hayes Woods that he had cleared.

Complete Streets Status Report

Legge provided an update on the submission timing and list of projects that could be funded in FY20.

Website & Map Status

Remillard reported that mapping errors were fixed, removed non-existent trails, and added new Groton Conservation Commission properties. McMeniman noted some social media comments regarding hunting and firearms on public and private land. Funch suggested adding links to relevant town and Groton Conservation Commission website pages. Funch noted that policies vary per land owner. McMeniman will begin work on a revised Trail Use Guidelines to bring it in-line with current usage regulations per land owners.

Other Reports/Announcements

Barrett stated that he will begin drafting a document for best practices for bridge construction and installation, including materials, foundation, etc. Document will be used to help future Eagle Scout candidate projects.

Groton Conservation Forum Document

Funch reviewed the GTC contribution to the Groton Conservation Forum document. Several committee members provided feedback.

Dog Regulations and Website References

Funch provided information on MassWildlife dog regulations on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). General discussion regarding support of dog regulations from the various land owners. Ordemann discussed his findings on dog regulations from surrounding towns and Groton's dog regulations. Funch suggested that Ordemann provide a recommendation for the best practice for dog owners and trail users. There was additional discussion regarding the committee's responsibilities to inform the public once land owners decide upon their regulations

Funch made a motion to remove the Dog Walking section of the website. Paananen seconded. Branigan, Barrett, Funch, Ordemann, Lathrop, Paananen, and McMeniman supported. Peregoy, Remillard, and Legge opposed.

Adjournment:

VOTE: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:54 PM.