



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****
April 16, 2019

Attendees: (Present: X)			Visitors:
Chair	Paul Funch	X	None.
Vice Chair	Bob Ordemann	X	
Secretary	Ryan McMeniman		
Members	Olin Lathrop	X	
	Jason Remillard		
	Jim Peregoy	X	
	Kevin Barrett		
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Wanfang Murray	X	
	Kiirja Paananen	X	
	Jonna Branigan		

Call to Order

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm.

Approval of March Minutes

VOTE: Jim moved to approve the minutes, as amended, of March 19, 2019 and Bob seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Guided Hikes

Hikes completed:

- Bob led a hike at Town Forest on April 4th - 3 people attended – iNaturalist app was very popular
- Bob led a hike at Gamlin on April 11th - 3 people attended
- Olin and Kiirja led a hike at the Red Line trail and Millstone on March 10 – 8 people attended in spite of rain
- Olin and Kiirja led a hike at Rocky Hill on April 14th - 15 people attended – turtles, herons, and red-tail hawks were sighted

Upcoming hikes:

- Bob will lead a hike at Williams Barn on the 18th April
- Groton Conservation Trust will be leading a Groton Traverse Hike on May 5
- Wanfang will lead a birding hike at Blackman on May 12 as part of the Hidden treasures series
- Olin will lead hike at General Field and Surrenden on May 19
- Olin will lead hike at Groton Hills on June 23

Kiirja has been announcing the Sunday hikes on the Groton Trails FB page and in Meetup. Announcing hikes on Meetup seems to attract participants. When asked how they found out about the hike, most people say

Meetup, and a few will say AMC. Kiirja also posts trails photos on the FB page a few times a week, including photos from recent hikes.

Signs Status

Olin is waiting for Tom to cut the 6 poles in half so that signs (which we have) can be installed.

Trail Projects Reports & Expenditures

- Bob has cleared downed trees in these areas: behind Williams Barn, Town Forest, Hayes Woods,
- Wanfang reports that there are more trees down in J Harry Rich State Forest.
- Paul will clear the Tinker trail now that the gate is open.
- Kiirja reports that people use the PM feature of FB to report issues they find on the trails. It was agreed that we should encourage this, so Kiirja will add an announcement on the Groton Trails FB page to encourage people to report in any trail issues.
- Olin will create a group email address that can be put on the Groton Trails website so that people can report trails issues from the website. That address will go to the entire trails committee. That email address will also be put on the cards that are handed out at hikes.
 - Existing email: trails@townofgroton.org
 - Olin's new email: trailscomm@embedinc.com
- There was a conversation about how best to keep track of reported trails issues.
- We need to look for posts and markers down after the winter.
- Bob suggested we enlist the public more to help with trails projects.
- Wanfang proposed keeping a spreadsheet to keep track of trail conditions and prioritize work

Dog Regulations and Policy Formation

- Several people reported that there seems to be a greater awareness lately by dog owners about dog behavior etiquette.
- Paul attended a meeting with at the Parks Commission meeting where they also talked about dog related issues and policies.
- Once we have a formal dog etiquette policy we should post signs at all properties, on the website and on the FB page. The signs need to be clear and succinct. Need to talk to GCT about signage on their properties.
 - Sign content:
 - Dogs must be under voice control or leashed at all times
 - Dogs must be in visual range of the owner at all times
 - Poop must be picked up and taken off the property by the dog owner
 - Dogs may not approach other people without their permission/invitation
 - Dogs may not enter the water unless it is a designated area
 - Dogs must stay on trail so as to not disturb wildlife
- Educational articles should be sent to the Groton newspaper
- Bob will talk to George about the related by-laws and with the local dog owners group.

Website & Map Status

- Jason not present at meeting.
- Olin says that new mapping information was ingested, however some trails appear to be missing from Rocky Hill area.
- No other web updates appear to have been made
- Facebook Website: Groton Trails Network FB page is getting a lot of visits, likes and followers.

Other Reports/Announcements

- NEFF will talk to Taisey about the Partridgeberry land
- Olin reports that a new section of land south of Martins Pond has been acquired. Borders the road and the shoreline.
- Other land abutting Sorhaug is also in process. Assessment. Land grant application? This would allow a trail going over a drumlin.
- Paul will attend the NEFF meeting at Prouty which includes speakers, hiking and paddling. Date???
- Riverfest is June 9 – we will have a booth. Need people to work at the booth.
- Wild and Scenic celebration at Devens – April 28

2019 Goals and “To Do” List

- Skitapet needs markers
- Olin will map these properties:
 - Senior Center to Hemlock Grove
 - Duck Pond
- High Priority projects - New trails in these areas:
 - Whisper Brook to Mason 100
 - Robinson trail
 - Senior Center to Hemlock Grove – Steve would like to work on that trail.
- It was agreed that we should discuss names for trails at the next meeting. Candidate names will be pitched to property owners for approval before they are formally adopted. Paul said he'd like the name signs to be a different color than other signage.

Adjournment:

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