



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **October 15, 2019**

Attendees: (Present: X)			Visitors:
Chair	Paul Funch	X	Hunter O'Toole
Vice Chair	Bob Ordemann	X	
Secretary	Jason Remillard	X	
Members	Olin Lathrop	X	
	Jim Peregoy	X	
	Kevin Barrett	X	
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Wanfang Murray	X	
	John Ellenberger		
	Paul Riley	X	
	Laura DeGroot		

Call to Order

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

Approval of September minutes

VOTE: September minutes, Funch moved, Lathrop seconded, unanimously approved as amended.

Guided hikes reports

Lathrop's guided hike at The Throne had 12 people attend.

Sign reports

Lathrop's presented a design for a dog restriction trail sign. The committee discussed and amended Lathrop's sign proposal:

Dogs Welcome on Trails

- Pick up and remove dog's waste
- Keep dog under your control
- Keep dog on trail
- Don't let dog approach others unless invited

VOTE: Lathrop's amended sign was approved. Ordemann will propose the amended sign design to the landowners for approval. Peregoy moved, Lathrop seconded, unanimously approved.

Funch provided a summary of his discussion with DCR Supervisor Matthew Amadon regarding potential signage and map kiosk for the John Tinker Trail and J Harry Rich State Forest.

Trail projects reports

Ordemann removed trees from Wattles Pond and Town Forest trails.

Legge discussed the overgrown vegetation around the memorial at Bertozzi Conservation Area. Legge will contact Mass Wildlife and ask for permission to maintain the memorial.

Funch and Ellenberger installed a Conservation Commission sign for the Fritz and Helen Walker Conservation Area on Chicopee Row.

Funch, plus four volunteers, rerouted trail around wet area and he and Barrett constructed and installed three bog bridge segments at Groton Hills.

Boy Scout projects

Funch discussed the expected effort and cost required for the open project list with Hunter O'Toole, who is interested in doing an Eagle Scout Project. O'Toole expressed interest in a bog bridge project in Wharton Plantation.

Social media report

No reports.

Wharton Plantation trail closing

Funch reported that his efforts to get the necessary land donations for the existing northern Burnt Meadow trail were not successful. The trail will be closed and removed from the online map.

Website and map reports

Updated the high school and middle school cross country trail maps.

Groton School trails

Funch discussed the Groton School trails with David Black. David Black maintains the Groton School trails between Farmers Row and the Nashua River Rail Trail. The trails are open to the public and can be added to the GTC online map.

Trail Naming

The committee discussed trail names; no votes were taken.

Throne Hill: The south loop trail name recommendation is Dann's Loop and North East loop is Laurel loop.

Gibbet Hill: The main trail name recommendation is Castle Trail, or Bancroft Trail
J Harry Rich State Forest: recommended names are Eagle Loop (northern loop), Oxbow Trail (southern loop), and J Harry Rich Trail (main trail).

Miscellaneous

Funch purchased a battery for the GTC hedge trimmer.

Adjournment:

VOTE: Funch moved to adjourn, Ordemann seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote at 8:37 PM.