



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **November 19, 2019**

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

Call to Order

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Approval of October minutes

VOTE: Lathrop moved, Peregoy seconded, unanimously approved as amended.

Guided hikes reports

12 people attended Lathrop's guided hike on Nov 10.

Sign reports

Ellenberger and Funch installed a Groton Conservation Commission signpost for Longley II parcel on Drumlin Hill Road.

Trail projects reports

Funch rerouted several trails in McLain's Woods to improve sustainability (existing trails being eroded). He also reported an error in the map for Mahoney Lane in McLain's Woods.

Funch and four members of the Friends of the Nashua River Rail Trail closed the steep trail connecting the sand pit to the rail trail (1 mile north of Sand Hill Rd.) that was washing sand onto the rail trail, water bars were installed, and sand was removed from adjacent to the rail trail.

Matt Amadon is going to apply for an SCA (Student Conservation Association) grant to install bridges on the connector trail between Oxbow Trail and Eagle Loop trails.

Ordemann removed several large trees from the Rail Trail and the J Harry Rich trails.

Lathrop reported some problems with the placement of trail markers in Hemlock Grove.

MassTrails Conference

DeGroot took the chainsaw safety workshop at the MassTrails Conference in Leominster.

Funch and Lathrop gave the committee a report on the conference. Funch noted that DCR has increased by 3x the grants available for trail projects.

Lathrop reported on a session covering new geo-textile fabrics and other products to manage wet/muddy trail surfaces and bridges.

Boy Scout projects

Bryce McKinley got his RDA approved and is constructing a bridge in Bates property. Hunter O'Toole will be meeting with Funch on adding bog bridges on Wharton Plantation.

Social media report

No reports.

Website and map reports

Removed the closed trail on Wharton Plantation (near Burntmeadow Rd.) and updated the Groton School cross country trails.

Wanfang discussed updating the bird activity page to include what birds are on what trails. She also noted that there is a birding book just for Ayer and Groton that should be added to the website. There is also a phone app that should be mentioned that can identify bird species from the bird call.

Groton Conservation Forum

Funch proposed inviting Dr. Moonmaw to talk about managing forests for carbon sequestration rather than lumber production. He recently gave this presentation for NRWA.

Wanfang proposed that we focus on structuring the forum to help orient new people on what each of the many conservation organizations do.

Ordemann proposed bringing in a keynote speaker to discuss declining bird population.

Ellenberger proposed structuring the forum with break-out sessions, emulating the first year's forum.

Lathrop proposed omitting the keynote speaker to allocate more time for discussion and he also offered to moderate discussions to keep them timely and on topic.

Legge proposed having the meeting in the Senior Center to get a larger room.

Legge is going to investigate using the Senior Center.

Ellenberger is going to propose additional keynote speakers.

Trail naming

The proposed trail names for the J. Harry Rich State Forest were approved by DCR Supervisor Matt Amadon: Eagle Loop Trail, Oxbow Loop Trail, and J Harry Rich Trail.

Adjournment

VOTE: DeGroot moved to adjourn, Ordemann seconded, vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM.