



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **April 21, 2020**

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

Call to Order

Chair Funch called the meeting to order via on-line conferencing (Zoom) at 7:05 pm. Funch noted that member John Ellenberger had resigned from the committee within the past week.

Approval of January 21st Minutes

VOTE: January 21st minutes, Peregoy moved, Lathrop seconded, unanimously approved as amended.

Guided Hikes

A brief update was given on upcoming hike, at General Field, and Feb 16th Esker Trail hike.

Report on Annual Groton Conservation Forum:

The meeting went well although there was lower attendance this year. John put a lot of work into the Forum and the committee thanked John Ellenberger for that and for his service on the committee in general.

Squannacook River Runners Donation from Town Forest Trail Races

Funch reported a \$1,500 donation from SRR that was received in January. Also reported \$10,952.07 in the Gift Fund and an additional \$1,172 in the checking account from Town Forest race.

2019 Annual Report

Legge was thanked for the committee's submission to the Town's annual report. A new contribution was information about the Squannacook River Rail Trail. Legge also submitted pictures for the Annual Report to the Town Manager's office.

Announcements

Grotonfest moved to September 26, 2020; Town Forest races are scheduled for October 25, 2020.

Trail Projects Reports

Lathrop gave an overview of the Casner land off Pepperell Rd. in West Groton and the proposed trail near the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Restriction. Groton Conservation Trust owns land and is planning a dedication to June Johnson sometime this year.

Eagle Scout Project (report from Erik Tobies)

Tobies reviewed his new proposed trail layout on the Sorhaug and Trimper parcels. Suggested change was to remove the second connecting trail to Clements Trail on the pond side. Lathrop moved to endorse Tobies' proposed trail with that change; Barrett seconded; unanimously approved as amended.

Tobies will bring the proposal to the Conservation Commission; Lathrop will work with Tobies on amending the Request for Determination of Applicability to reflect changes to the trail location.

New Trail Proposal for Chestnut Hill Loop

Funch presented his proposal for a new trail between the top of the current Chestnut Hill trail and the new trail proposed by Erik Tobies. This would create a loop trail instead of the current situation of a dead-end trail due to the closure of Brooks Orchard by the new landowner. A suggestion was offered to make the connection to Erik's trail at the high point of his trail rather than closer to the Clements Trail; this change was adopted by consensus. Funch indicated he would flag the new route for others to review.

VOTE: Lathrop moved to adjourn; Ordemann seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:47 PM.