



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **May 19, 2020**

Attendees: (Present: X)			Visitors:
Chair	Paul Funch	X	Groton Channel
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	
	Paul Riley		
	Laura DeGroot	X	

Call to Order

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm over Zoom. Meeting was also broadcast live over The Groton Channel

Approval of Minutes

VOTE: To approve April 21 minutes as amended. Lathrop moved, Legge seconded, unanimous approval; Remillard abstained.

Trail Projects

- On the 15th an intense storm went through Groton felling many trees over the trails on a line from West Groton (Integrity Way) to eastern Groton (Red Line Path).
- Legge requested help clearing the slash left from the professional tree cutting on the Squannacook River Rail Trail. He and Wanfang did a lot of clearing over several days.
- Barrett reported trees down in the Groton Hills from the storm and volunteered to clear them.
- Funch reported that the Baddacook and Wharton Plantation parcels have many trees down from the storm.
- Ordemann reported that he removed many fallen trees from the Town Forest and Nashua River Rail Trail.
- Ordemann reported that the Gamlin Esker Trail and the Red Line Trail are covered with fallen trees from the storm.
- Peregoy cleaned up a tree on the Brown Trail.

- Funch and Al Futterman (NRWA) installed new signs in the Town Forest and Wharton Plantation marking the directions to the parking lots and roads. Signs were provided through a grant to the NRWA.
- Funch cleared a fallen tree on the Tinker trail.
- Lathrop noted that the Conservation Commission's funds were being restricted by the Town of Groton due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, they may not be able to pay for the parts cost for the maintenance of the brush mower that is being done by Commissioner Peter Morrison. The consensus of the committee was to cover the cost from our gift fund if the Commission could not use their funds for that purpose.

Complete Streets Update

Legge provided an update describing the current Complete Streets Committee project proposals. It is expected that four new projects will be proposed this fall. The Fall Town Meeting will need to approve engineering costs for the projects and the state may provide grant funding up to 100% of the construction costs, all to be done in 2021.

The four projects are: 1) completion of a sidewalk/path from the eastern end of West Main Street to The (Senior) Center in West Groton; 2) completion of a sidewalk along Lowell Road to the driveway entrance of the Gibbet Hill Grill; 3) construction of a new entrance/exit to the Nashua River Rail Trail at Whistle Post Lane that will be fully accessible and will eliminate current grade issues; and 4) completion of a sidewalk on Sandy Pond Road (at Shaw's corner) to Robin Hill Road."

Chestnut Hill Loop Trail Discussion

Discussed Funch's proposed trail route for the new Chestnut Hill loop trail. Several members walked the proposed trail and they agreed with Funch's proposed route.

Sorhaug to Walker Connecting Trail Proposal Using Geo Textiles Discussion

Funch discussed using geo-textiles to stabilize the muddy area on the Sorhaug to Walker connecting trail. Funch estimated that it will cost around 1200 dollars to cover 120 feet of trail with the geo textiles and stone. Funch volunteered to bring a proposal to the committee.

Lathrop moved, and Peregoy seconded, a motion for Funch to develop a proposal for using the geo-textiles on the Sorhaug to Walker connecting trail. The vote was unanimously approved.

Closed Trail Signs Discussion

Funch discussed purchasing a set of "trail closed" signs to mark un-maintained trails. Lathrop and Legge volunteered to create a design and budget proposal for a trail closing sign.

Website Map Rework

Remillard reported that the website mapping software will be replaced at the end of the month because the current software service has been discontinued.

Adjournment:

VOTE: Barrett moved, Peregoy seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:26 PM.