



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **September 15, 2020**

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

Call to Order

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of September minutes

The September 1 minutes were discussed and will be approved at the next meeting.

Gibbet Hill bridge construction (Bruce Easom)

Bruce Easom provided an update to the bridge project and asked for more volunteers.

Welcome to Derek

Derek Cianci was welcomed as a new member of the Trails Committee

Applicant for Open Committee Seat – Darryl Sullivan

Darryl withdrew his application for the open seat.

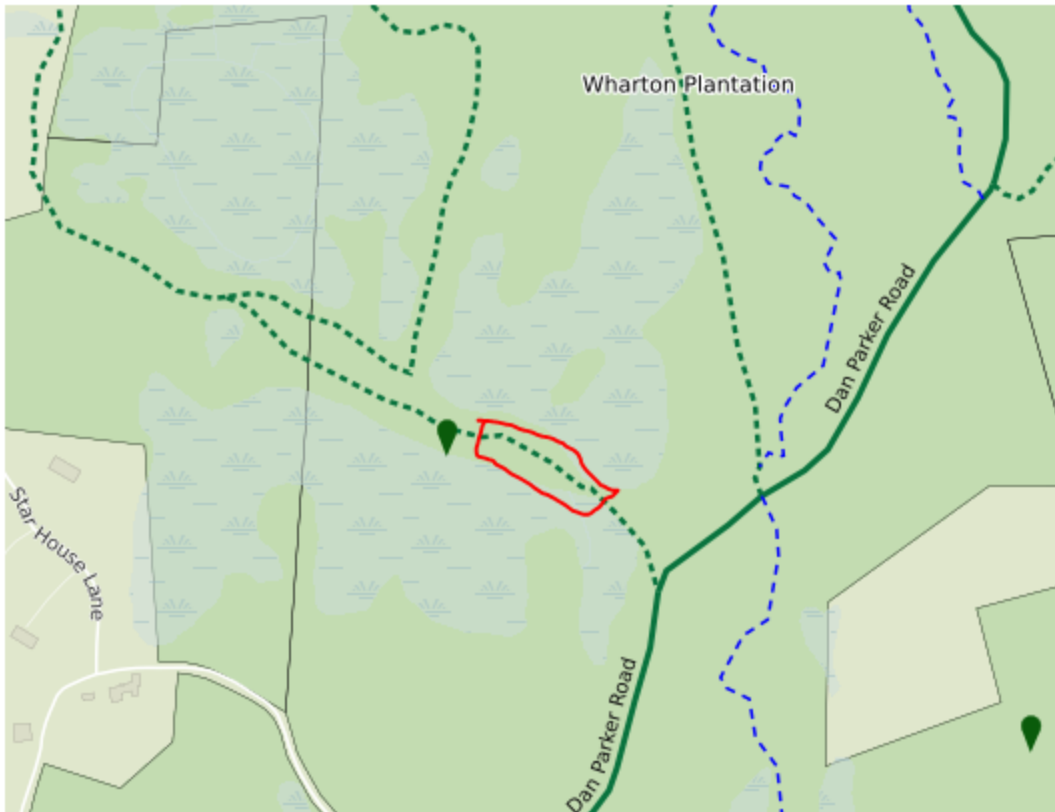
Trail Projects Status

a) Chestnut Hill Loop and Trimper Trails

Trails are completed and being used.

b) Eagle Scout Project - Wharton Plantation bog bridges (Hunter O'Toole)

Bog bridges are basically done; they are in the area indicated on the map below.



c) Whispering Brook Trail Re-Route

Lathrop walked the north trail, agreed that it is a pretty trail, and estimated that the bridge would be less than 300 feet because of a ridge. The southwest corner of the property has wetlands not marked on the map.

Lathrop reported that the RDA has been filed on moving the south trail. The RDA is scheduled to be discussed by the conservation commission during their October 13th meeting.

d) Sorhaug - Geo-Textile Ground Stabilization

The receipt for the geo-textile was signed by a quorum of members and Funch received his reimbursement. Funch got a quote of roughly 450 dollars for the gravel.

Groton Trails Circuit - Jeff Dearman

Postponed until the October meeting.

Skinner Forest Trail Modifications

Funch reported on the changes to the Skinner Forest trails. One of the trails that was closed has a dedication stone that needs to be moved to the open trails.

Complete Streets Report

Legge reported on the actions of the Town’s Complete Streets Committee (CSC), on which he represents the Groton Trails Committee. As in previous years, the state is offering Groton up to \$400,000 in funding for construction of Complete Streets projects approved by the state. If the projects are approved, the Town must pay the engineering design costs.

This year, the CSC wished to submit three projects totaling \$389,000 in construction costs. The Groton Select Board, however, was unwilling to submit the estimated total of \$89,000 in engineering design costs for Fall Town Meeting approval; instead, they recommended that only \$35,000 be requested at Town Meeting.

The CSC accepted the Board’s recommendation, given the Town’s difficult and uncertain financial condition due to COVID-19. As a result, only the top priority project, a sidewalk extension from the existing sidewalk on W. Main Street in West Groton to The Center, will be submitted to the state. For this project, the engineering design cost is estimated to be \$35,000 and the construction cost funded by the state grant is estimated at \$222,000.

Trail signs

Lathrop reported that he has ordered 10 of the new “trail closed” signs. Legge and Lathrop discussed purchasing a sign for the Squannacook River Rail Trail’s town boundary sign.

Ordemann suggested that we drop the dog sign effort. Funch suggested that the Trail Committee discuss the dog signage with the Conservation Commission.

The current design of the dog sign is shown below.

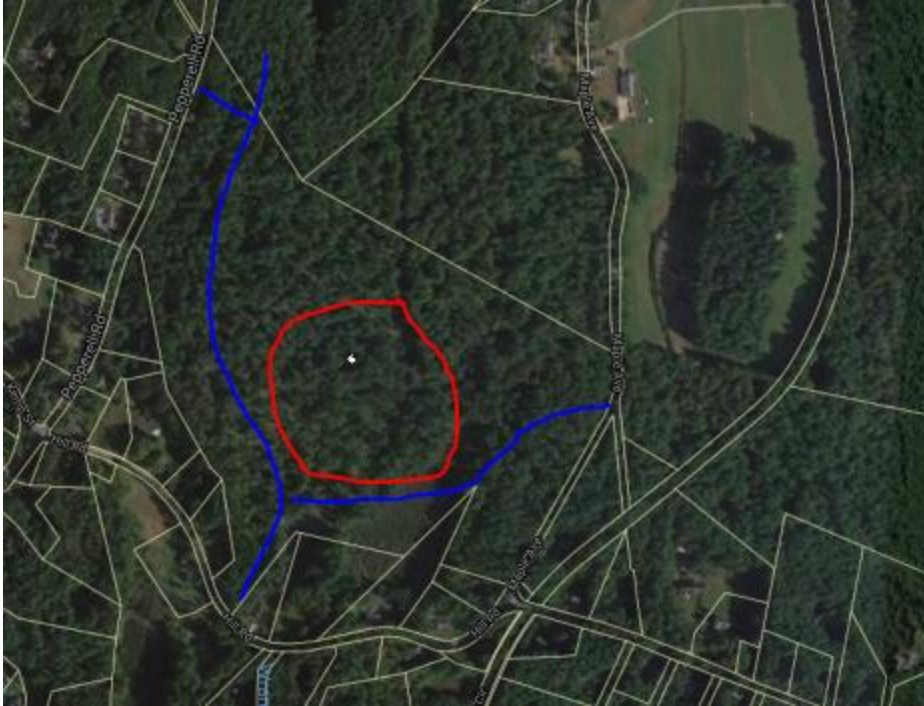


Lathrop volunteered to revise the sign to make it more polite and discuss it at the next meeting.

Conservation Commission Property Updates

Olin reported that the Groton Conservation Commission now owns the back of property id 206-32, near the Throne. The front half of the propriety is zoned residential.

A large parcel off Maple Avenue, shown in the map below, will be donated to the conservation commission as part of a subdivision development, providing an opportunity for more trails (blue lines, which are notional).



Funch reported that the Fitch's Bridge Estate conservation restriction may expire eliminating access to Fitch's bridge.

Committee Conduct

Funch discussed whether the committee should conduct its meetings in a more formal manner. He also reiterated that all committee members should feel free to ask for clarifications when something is confusing during the meeting.

Adjournment

VOTE: Lathrop moved, Barrett seconded, and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM.