



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **October 20, 2020**

Attendees: (Present: X)			Visitors:
Chair	Paul Funch	X	Bruce Easom
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	
	Laura DeGroot		
	Derek Cianci	X	

Call to Order

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

Approval of September Minutes

VOTE: Lathrop moved and Barrett seconded to approve the September minutes as amended. Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion. Lathrop moved and Ordemann seconded to amend the minutes with updates to the Complete Streets section by Legge and Funch. Motion was unanimously approved.

Applicants for Open Committee Seat: Eric Elbot and Lisa Irelan

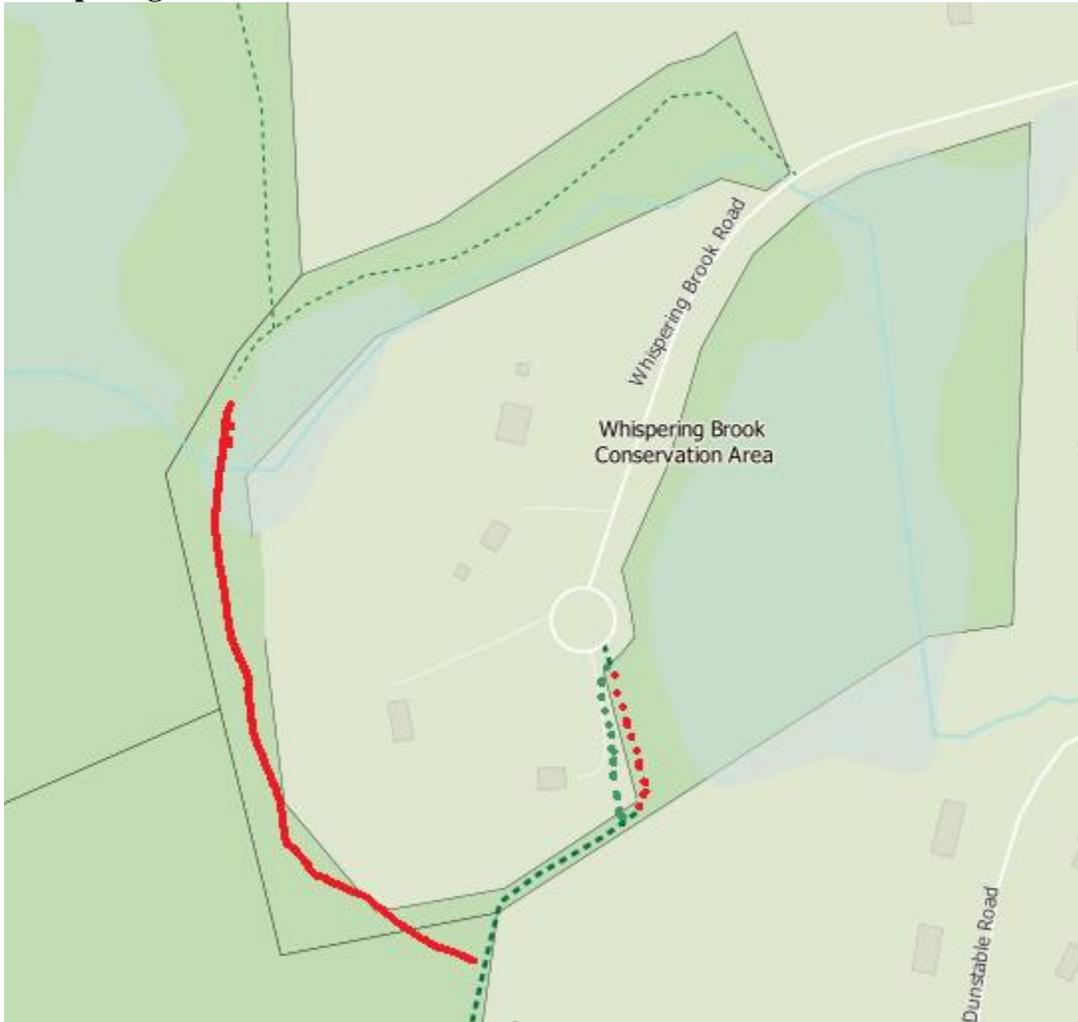
Candidates presented their reasons for applying and the skills they can bring to the Committee. Questions from Committee members were responded to.

At the end of the interviews, Elbot said we would like to defer to Irelan and asked the Committee to recommend Irelan to the Select Board. Elbot indicated that he was still interested in participating in the Committee moving forward. Funch acknowledged his offer and indicated that Elbot was welcome to do so, as was any other member of the public.

Lathrop moved to recommend Irelan to Town Manager and Murray seconded. The Committee approved the motion unanimously.

Trail Projects Updates-

Whispering Brook Trails



Abutter Greg Sheldon submitted a letter from the neighborhood asking the Committee to reconsider opening the trail based on the recently approved RDA (i.e., negative determination).

Ordemann made a motion to delay the opening of the trail that was approved by the Conservation Commission. Barrett seconded the motion. After discussion, the Committee voted and the final tally was 5-3 (Ordemann, Barrett, Peregoy, Murray and Cianci voting in favor, while Funch, Lathrop, and Legge voted against the motion). Motion was approved.

Gibbet Hill Project

Project complete. There was some discussion of signage for the trail. Need to pass it by Amanda Lewis (Recreational Trails Program Grant Administrator) so that we ensure that we get the signage and the recognition correct.

Chestnut Hill Trail

Project is almost complete. There are a couple of sections that require some bench cutting, but the trail is more than passable and provides a great loop up and around Chestnut Hill.

Trimper Trail- (Eric Tobies - Eagle Scout project)

Trail is mostly complete. Wooden posts have been installed. Brief discussion on additional signage out to (and from) Martins Pond Rd. Committee expressed its approval of the work done by Tobies.

Wharton Plantation (Hunter O’Toole – Eagle Scout project)

Project complete. Bog bridges constructed on either side of the bridge near the Esker Trail. Also levelled the supports of the bridge itself. Committee expressed its approval of the work done by O’Toole.

Brown Trail

The Conservation Commission is looking for a recommendation from the Trails Committee on a proposal by Funch to address the steep incline on the entrance to the Brown Trail from Chicopee Row. The proposal on the table is to regrade the entrance to reduce the steep initial slope and to provide a more level interface at the road side for a horse, for reasons of safety. Concerns were raised by some Committee members about the potential impact to trees in the area where the regrading is done.

Suggestion was made to get input from Building Inspector, and other people who might have expertise in this area. Funch took an action item on following up.

Funch asked all Committee members to inspect the entrance before the next meeting to judge for themselves whether there would be a significant impact to the trees.

Complete Streets Committee Update

Legge provided an update on the Complete Streets project approved at Town Meeting and the other projects that were deferred.

Signs

A sign recognizing that the John Tinker Trail project, like the Gibbet Hill bridge, was a joint effort of the Town of Groton and the DCR Recreational Trails Program was discussed.

There was discussion about the dog rules sign. Some Committee members recommended softening up the language on the sign, but upon review of the latest version, most felt it was OK as is. Lathrop took an action to come back and offer a final version at the November meeting.

Website/Mapping

Request from Remillard to submit suggestions and improvements in an organized fashion so that he can address them more easily.

The Committee recognized all the work that Remillard had done to move the map onto a new platform in a very short period of time.

Chainsaw Safety Class

Funch mentioned the class is on hold unless we can get enough people to sign up. If not, then the class will be rescheduled in the spring. Trails Committee is willing to offset some of the cost of the class for Committee members interested in signing up.

Adjournment

VOTE: Lathrop moved to adjourn, Peregoy seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved, at 8:58 PM.