



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **November 17, 2020**

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

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of October Minutes**

**VOTE:** DeGroot moved and Ordemann seconded to approve the October minutes as amended. Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion but Remillard abstained.

### **Trail Project Status**

Cianci reported that three GTC posts on Old Dunstable Road and one post on Burntmeadow Road were replaced.

Funch reported that he cleared many of the trails in Keyes Woods with the brush mower but did not finish the area because the brush mower broke.

Funch reported that the extra car and foot traffic at Gibbet Hill/Bancroft Castle is becoming a problem. Some of the nearby landowners have complained about cars parking on their private driveway and lost hikers walking on their properties. To mitigate the hiker problems, Funch replaced the trailhead post near the private driveway and added trail markers nearby. He suggested that more posts and markers would be helpful for clearly marking the trail route. DeGroot volunteered to talk with Jed Webber, owner/manager of Gibbet Hill Grill,

about adding signs and trail markers from the restaurant parking to the Castle, which will help the parking problem.

Lathrop reported that many damaged trees from the May microburst were cleared from the Shattuck omestead. He requested help to repair the damage from the bobcat used to clear the trails.

Lathrop reported that there was a trail in Sorhaug Woods that looked like it was an unauthorized trail, but Funch noted that it was an existing animal trail and not being used by people. Funch volunteered to put a log across the trail.

### **Trail Signs**

The committee discussed the current version of the dog rules sign. Funch will present the sign to the major landowners and request their permissions to install the signs.



Lathrop reported that the following sign was submitted for fabrication. It will be used near the Gibbet Hill bridge and at the John Tinker Trail.



Funch discussed the possibility of making signs to provide the names of rivers that cross the trails network.

### **Website and Mapping**

Lathrop GPS tracked the new trails on the Sorhaug Woods/Priest Family Area and cleaned up the OpenStreetMap.

### **Reimbursement for Gibbet Hill Bridge Expenses**

The Gibbet Hill bridge project went \$2,510.16 over budget because the project was executed a year late and could not use matching funds from volunteer efforts. Funch recommended that the overage be covered from the Trail Committee's Gift Fund.

Barrett moved, and Lathrop seconded the motion to reimburse Bruce Easom for the \$2,510.16 he paid for the materials that was not covered by the RTP grant. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Reimbursement for Chainsaw Safety Course**

The chainsaw safety course was canceled because not enough people registered. Funch will attempt to reschedule the course in the Spring.

### **Regarding Proposal for Regrading Brown Trail @ Chicopee Row**

Funch will propose to the Conservation Commission to reroute and regrade the Brown Trail. The current plan is to move it directly across from the trail on the other side of the road and to

provide a longer level area for a horse and rider to stand before crossing Chicopee Row.

### **Riverwalk Project Planning**

Funch reported on the project to create an accessible stone dust trail on the Taisey property. Funch has been working to buy the Taisey property and then have it donated to the Groton Conservation Trust. However, the Groton Conservation Trust voted at their November meeting to not accept the donation of the Taisey property. Funch wanted to discuss other potential locations for the accessible trail. However, Lathrop urged Funch to discuss the Taisey property donation with the Conservation Commission first.

### **MA Recreational Trails Program Grants**

Funch urged members to apply for an RTP trail grant.

### **Adjournment:**

**VOTE:** Barrett moved to adjourn, DeGroot seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.