



Groton Trails Committee

# TOWN OF GROTON

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## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **February 16, 2021**

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

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Approval of January Minutes**

**VOTE:** Lathrop moved to approve the January minutes as amended, and Peregoy seconded; motion unanimously approved.

### **MA RTP Grant Submission – Riverwalk Project Design**

Funch reported that the matching portion of the RTP grant is not eligible to be covered by a grant from Freedom's Way because both grants use federal funds. Funch is looking into applying for the matching funds under NRW's Wild and Scenic Rivers grant program. The appraisal by Ellen Anderson is expected to be completed by the end of February. The RTP application included 11 letters of support.

### **Signs – Brook Identification and Surrenden Farm Directional**

The Conservation Commission Administrator was shown an example of the brook sign and the potential locations for three brook crossing signs on town land or easements; we will seek

the commissioner's approval. The four recommended signs were approved by the GCT. Lathrop reported that the signs the GTC ordered last fall were delivered to the Town Hall but no one was notified that they had arrived. Approvals for three brook signs on NEFF and DCR properties will be sought by Funch. Funch left sign samples in the GTC trailer and displayed the signs during the Zoom meeting. Lathrop will order more signs once MassCorr receives payment for the delivered signs.

Lathrop displayed the Surrenden Farms directional signs and their intended locations.

### **Website and Mapping**

Remillard was absent but it was reported that he expects to update the website over the weekend.

### **Letter of Thanks to Erik Tobies**

Funch prepared a letter and displayed it to the Committee; all members were very appreciative of Erik's development of the Priest Trail and his assistance with the Gibbet Hill bridge.

### **Volunteer of the Year**

Funch displayed his spreadsheet of trail maintenance hours by volunteers and Trails Committee members for 2020. He reported a total of 943 hours and noted that volunteer Gregory Mendes donated the most time on a number of large trail projects. Lathrop moved to award Mendes a GTC towel embroidered by Leslie Lathrop, and Legge seconded; motion unanimously approved.

### **Proposal for New "Brooks Orchard Loop Trail" in Sorhaug**

Funch displayed the proposed loop trail that runs along the stone wall boundary for a good distance. Barrett said he liked the loop and asked if you can navigate around Brooks Orchard from Groton Hills or Sawtell. Funch responded that the area is not accessible as the property is under private ownership. The new house will be located where the barn foundation was near the pond.

### **Request for Letter of Support for Parks Commission CPA application**

Funch prepared a letter of support and displayed it to the Committee. Ireland commented that the funding request seemed excessive for a study; Funch responded that the scope covered three athletic fields which can be complicated. Legge suggested removing the funding amount from the letter of support. Lathrop moved to officially support the Parks Commission CPA application, and Ordemann seconded; motion unanimously approved as amended.

## **Gift Fund and Equipment Purchase**

Funch reviewed funds available in the Gift Fund ledger (\$7,706.66) and bank account (\$1,000). He proposed purchasing a DR Leaf Blower Model X20 MAXSP for \$1,700, to be funded by the Conservation Commission (\$1,000) and GTC (\$700). Legge moved to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$700 for the leaf blower, Cianci seconded; motion unanimously approved.

## **Trailhead Posts**

Funch reported on alternative materials for trailhead posts. Trex is hollow, only 4 feet tall and expensive (\$80/post). Other alternatives were found that measure 4"x4"x8' but they are more expensive (\$100/post), and have no gothic top. Current cedar posts cost \$45 each, measure 5"x5"x8' and have a lifespan of at least 12 years. Lathrop moved to approve ordering cedar trailhead posts, expenditure not to exceed \$400; DeGroot seconded; motion unanimously approved.

## **Annual Report Update**

Legge is finalizing the annual report, to be completed in the next two weeks. Lathrop will send him a list of the new trail signs produced in 2020 and the total number of public hikes for 2020. Peter Cunningham will be submitting a summary of the Squannacook River Rail Trail activities that Steve will include in the report.

## **Miscellaneous Items**

Peregoy reported that he returned trail markers that were moved on the Gamlin Boulder trail. Funch noted that its time to order 1000 more trail markers at 50 cents each. Members discussed the current GTC business card design and updating the email address.

## **Adjournment:**

**VOTE:** Legge moved to adjourn, and Peregoy seconded; motion unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.