



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **May 18, 2021**

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

### **Call to Order**

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

### **Approval of April 20 Minutes**

**VOTE:** Lathrop moved to approve the April 20 minutes as amended, and Peregoy seconded; motion unanimously approved.

### **Riverwalk Project – CFNCM Grant, Deadline for Purchase**

The Community Foundation of North Central MA grant was approved for \$2,500, waiting for approval of grant from the MA Recreational Trails Program (\$30,000). Deadline given to Mr. Taisey for accepting the offer on his property is this Friday, May 21. If offer to Mr. Taisey is not accepted by then, Funch intends to work with MassWildlife regarding the development of the Marion Stoddart (Accessible) Riverwalk on the Squannacook Wildlife Management Area (WMA) adjacent to the Bertozzi Conservation Area. It is hoped that the grants might be “transferable” to this new location since they are only for design tasks, which are largely site independent.

## **Signs**

Lathrop reported he needs 6 more fence posts for directional signs on the Surrenden property. Funch installed 4 brooks crossing signs and 20 dog rules signs but will need to make trailhead post replacements before installing some of the dog signs. Committee needs to prepare a list of signs to be installed and replaced.

## **Website, Mapping and Social Media Roles**

There was no update on the website.

Irelan reported she spoke with former GTC member Ellenberger regarding maintenance and layout of the GTC social media sites. She did a presentation of the GTC media sites summarizing options, media objectives, and content. Topics covered posting photos, advertising GTC events, help with trails maintenance, and highlighting trails.

Legge recommended advertising the trails map to encourage more public use of the website. Ordemann asked if we could simplify how we notify the public of trail maintenance events. Barrett suggested using social media to highlight a trail. Irelan said she would post her presentation on the GTC google docs site.

## **GTC Map**

DeGroot reported she spoke with the town's GIS consultant Tim Fountain from CAI regarding options for maintaining the GTC trails map using the town's GIS platform. Fountain said the trails maps were very detailed and it would be difficult to replicate the current trails maps using the town's website. Possible option was using ArcGIS software. DeGroot recommended against this option as its difficult to maintain and can be costly.

## **Eagle Scout Project – Jesse Hendershot**

Hendershot gave a presentation on building a trail bridge for his Eagle Scout project on the trail from Mahoney Lane into the Walker Conservation area. Proposed bridge is a 24-ft long pedestrian/bike/horse bridge (2 sections) over an intermittent stream. Total cost: \$772.81; project completion by November (his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday). Project will require a Request for Determination of Applicability from the Conservation Commission. Lathrop said the RDA fee can be covered by the Commission and he can oversee the application. Easom will review the design as there were concerns about the bridge span and carry weight. Good stated that a 4-foot width without railing was sufficient for horse crossings. Treads will need spacing for drainage and a rough surface to prevent slippage. GTC agreed to cost share on the project. RDA application should be filed in time for June Commission meeting. Funch agreed to be Hendershot's contact for the project.

### **Whispering Brook Trail Update**

Lathrop presented proposed trail location, suggesting area on left side of wet area depicted in photos.

**VOTE:** Ordemann moved that the trail design proceed as proposed; DeGroot seconded; motion unanimously approved. Will require flagging Conservation Commission property boundary and filing of RDA, which Lathrop volunteered to do. Sheldon thanked the GTC and assistance from Ordemann and Lathrop on this project.

### **Brown Trail Re-Routing**

Approvals have been received for the trail re-routing; DPW to begin excavation.

### **Fitch Estates (Wallace Rd) – Trail re-routing and geo-textile/gravel installation**

The parcel has been sold and the attorney ensured that a trail easement was written into the new deed to allow public access along the Boston & Maine railroad right-of-way to Fitch's Bridge. Public access from Wallace Rd. was also maintained by creating a new easement in the deed for a trail along the southern boundary of the parcel. Gravel and geotextile grid will be used to provide dry passage across the drainage swale adjacent to the railroad right-of-way.

### **Williams Barn**

Members discussed the new loop trail and decided to discuss further at the next meeting.

### **New Member Opening**

Funch reported that Barrett will be leaving the GTC at the end of June and is looking for a new member.

### **Eagle Scout Court of Honor- June 6<sup>th</sup>**

Four scouts will be honored on June 6, 2 pm, Smith Pavilion, two of whom (Erik Tobies and Hunter O'Toole) performed trail projects for their Eagle Projects. Funch has been asked to speak about them and their projects at the ceremony.

### **Brook Signs – NRRT (2), Bates-Blackman, Sawtell, Gamlin, Shepley Hills**

Funch gave update on brook signs he installed.

### **Other Business**

Easom reported that 70 posts were installed at the Squannacook River Rail Trail; Legge assisted.

### **Adjournment**

**VOTE:** Lathrop moved to adjourn; Peregoy seconded; motion unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.