



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

** Monthly Meeting Minutes ** July 20, 2021

Attendees: (Present: X)			Visitors:
Chair	Paul Funch	X	Wendy Good
Vice Chair	Wanfang Murray	X	
Clerk	Laura DeGroot		
Members	Olin Lathrop	X	Adam Burnett
	Jim Peregoy	X	Harris McWade
	vacant		Jeanne Ciampa
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Lisa Ireland	X	
	Ralph Acaba		
	Derek Cianci	X	
	vacant		

Call to Order

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Approval of June 15 Meeting Minutes

Changes to prior month's minutes

- Sign posts - change wording to "motioned to approve the invoice"
- Sign locations - Update #3 & 4 to: 3) junction of Priest Trail and Chestnut Hill Loop Trail
4) Bruce Clements and Priest Trail
- Squannacook River Rail Trail last sentence - change from Legge to Easom as explaining

VOTE: Lathrop moved to accept June 15 minutes as amended. Peregoy seconded.
Unanimously approved.

Election of Officers for FY22

- Chair: Paul Funch
- Vice-Chair: Wanfang Murray
- Clerk: Laura DeGroot

VOTE: Funch moved to accept the slate of candidates as noted above. Cianci seconded. Unanimously approved.

Project Reports & Other Updates

Signs

Lathrop reviewed sign designs as follows for Committee approval:

- Priest Trail — for Martins Pond Rd @ the road
- Priest Trail — @ trailhead off private driveway
- Bruce Clements Trail — after first bridge coming from Williams barn
- Priest Trail — facing Chestnut Hill Loop Trail

Burnett suggested changing “Tr” to “Tr.” for clarity. Lathrop updated to “Brown Trail @ Chicopee Row”. Committee agreed Lathrop was previously approved to order signs and install; thus, no vote was required.

Mapping

Funch and Cianci both used Peregoy’s test site and said it was much better.

Per feedback from prior month meeting, Peregoy pulled out some OpenStreetMap trails and marked them in red as proof of concept. Trails marked red indicate private. He also noted trails marked in blue indicates a ski trail. Peregoy made a manual update to trail map to see how long it would take for MapBox to update — took about a week. New maps have improved zoom capability.

New map uses tiles generated by someone else. Groton’s trails are showing as yellow and blue on this new map. No ability to change this. Funch asked if there is a way to provide map legend to identify trail types. Peregoy will add a small legend but will need to consider whether this hampers performance.

Next steps:

- Peregoy to propagate GPS fix to main site in coming few weeks
- Will leave link to old map in upper right corner for 1 month then eliminate
- Peregoy to notify Committee as to time when he will make switch
- Irelan and Funch to notify trails community via Facebook and related social media avenues as well as Google Friends of Trails email list

Social Media

Thus far we have a single winner of treasure hunt to find new brook-crossing signs. Will continue to post reminders via Facebook. Funch confirmed the Johnson’s gift certificates (prizes) do not have an expiration date.

Sorhaug Loop Trail

Funch submitted RDA. Conservation Commission will review at meeting scheduled for next Tuesday 7/27/21.

Riverwalk Trail Replacement

Funch did not get buy-in from Pat Huckery of MA Fish & Wildlife. Now looking at J Harry Rich State Forest around the Oxbow Loop Trail as another option. Proposed pushing gate back a bit at the bottom of Common Street to increase parking and allow for accessible parking. Good questioned how trail conversion to accessible would impact horse use. Funch proposing 10' wide trail corridor with 5-foot-wide horse trail going alongside the 5-foot wide accessible trail. Accessible trail would be stone dust w/ horse trail being dirt. Burnett raised question about whether the road is still used for logging. Funch explained most of the forestry work would be to NE of proposed trail location, but the issue would have to be pursued with DCR. Some concern about possibility of river flooding damaging trail in this location. Funch noted prior flooding did not result in any significant trail damage in this area.

Brown Trail

DPW finished digging out first part of trail reroute across from 210 Chicopee Row. Next steps: Jack Petropoulos to assist with tractor to dig out remaining portion of new route and connect it to existing trail.

Fitch Estates

Funch communicated he's still waiting on gravel delivery and will follow up again this week.

Whispering Brook

Lathrop communicated the Conservation Commission approved the RDA for Trails Committee to build both trails. Funch explained he received call from Greg Sheldon asking Trails Committee to wait until he's back in town to start work so he can meet with Conservation Commission re: concerns about second trail.

Committee Fund Balances

Gift Fund: ~\$5,800

Remaining balance from proceeds of prior trail races: ~\$800

Grotonfest Date

September 25, 2021

Funch submitted registration for Committee to participate.

Trails Committee Open Spots for New Members (x3, one already filled by Ralph Acaba)

Harris McWade

Groton resident on/off since 1970. Horse and hiking interest. Chainsaw skills.

Adam Burnett

Informally worked w/ Trails Committee for several years. Worked for US Forest Service for 18 years then switched over to Corps of Engineers maintaining >1200 miles of multi-use trails. Volunteer coordination, trail design. Coordinated work w/ Student Conservation Association (SCA), bridge work/design. Currently more involved in wetlands and ecosystem restoration. Worked on Greenway Committee for Fitch's Bridge project. Interested in working on map projects and easements.

Jeanne Ciampa

Town resident for 11 years. Trail user w/ dogs, horses — always on trails. Experience w/ grant writing, marketing, community events and fundraiser organizations.

VOTE: Paper vote. Consensus by Committee to recommend Adam Burnett and Harris McWade to Select Board for appointment.

Adjournment

VOTE: Funch moved to adjourn meeting. Peregoy seconded. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.