



# TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

## **\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\*** **September 21, 2021**

<b>Attendees:</b> (Present: X)			<b>Visitors:</b>
Chair	Paul Funch	X	Greg Sheldon
Vice Chair	Wanfang Murray	X	Bruce Easom
Clerk	Laura DeGroot	X	
<b>Members</b>	Adam Burnett	X	
	Jim Peregoy	X	
	Harris McWade	X	
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Lisa Ireland	X	
	Ralph Acaba	X	
	Derek Cianci	X	
	Vacant		

### **Call to Order**

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

### **Approval of August 17 Meeting Minutes**

**VOTE:** McWade moved to accept August 17 minutes; Peregoy seconded. Ireland and DeGroot abstained. Unanimously approved.

### **Reports**

#### Signs

Nothing to report on signs.

#### Grotonfest

GTC members agreed with Ireland's suggestion to offer the GTC towel/gift card/koozie package as a drawing at the GTC table at Grotonfest (September 25). GTC members to volunteer that day: Murray, Funch, Ireland, Legge, Peregoy, DeGroot.

#### Social Media

Russ Harris, Executive Editor of the Groton Herald, asked Funch about doing a short column on newsworthy items such as current trail sightings, events, etc., similar to a Police Log format. Irelan and Legge volunteered to meet with Harris regarding the format and provide an example for publication. Legge suggested newsworthy items be highlighted in the GTC minutes.

### Website and Interactive Map

Members discussed recent updates by Peregoy to the interactive map set up in [openstreetmap.org](https://openstreetmap.org). Funch asked Peregoy how to correct missing or incorrect trail information. Peregoy noted that edits are done in the OpenStreetMap by creating a user account (there is no GTC account; you create your own user account). Peregoy asked Funch to send him a screenshot of trails to be corrected. He will be contacting Lathrop on how he imported mapping data into the program; DeGroot will look over her notes on how to import GPS points into [openstreetmap.org](https://openstreetmap.org), trace the trails and label. Murray suggested the initial zoom level show some trail detail. Funch reminded GTC members that Peregoy is the manager of the interactive mapping site and will take our suggestions under consideration.

Funch reported he paid the 3-year domain fee for [grotontrails.org](https://grotontrails.org) (\$131.94) which starts on December 18.

## **Project Reports**

### Whispering Brook

Sheldon gave an update on the status of the Whispering Brook trail which is already shown on the GTC map. The RDA was approved by the Conservation Commission for the trail location in August. He is now asking for a GTC subcommittee to help with the bog bridge design over the wetland area as well as an approximately 4–5-foot bridge. The design and construction cost will likely require a grant application; his goal is to seek CPA funding. Sheldon noted that Lathrop was involved with the RDA and will be asked about mitigation costs and design. McWade asked why a trail is being built in a wet area; Sheldon responded that there was a trail there 6 years ago, but a clogged culvert caused more flooding. Now (seasonally) is a suitable time to site walk to see the extent of the wet area. McWade suggested that the trail be used seasonally and avoided during the wet season. Burnett and Murray agreed to help Sheldon with the project; Burnett asked to see the application for the RDA and will meet with the Conservation Administrator.

### Sorhaug Loop Trail

Funch reported that the trail was completed last weekend, but the abutting neighbor was concerned that no survey was done to ensure the trail wasn't on his property. Funch expressed confidence that the trail was well within the ConsComm boundaries. There was much discussion about the best way to approach the matter, such as negotiating moving the trail in exchange for access to Chestnut Hill. Easom noted that this was the role of the Select Board and Town Counsel, not the GTC. Funch will meet with the Conservation

Administrator concerning the legal issues. Easom suggested putting the topic of a survey and Town Counsel expenses on the ConsComm agenda for next Tuesday (September 28).

#### Marion Stoddard Riverwalk Trail

Funch reported that he is currently exploring the possibility of installing this accessible trail on the Farmers and Mechanics parcel which may be more viable for funding under a state grant. Burnett noted that he thought that this property experienced some flooding; he recommended the Old Town Dump area off Nod Rd. along the Nashua River as an alternative.

#### Brown Trail

Funch reported that GELD drilled the two holes at trail intersection with Chicopee Row to support installation of trailhead posts. Their assistance was gratefully acknowledged.

#### Fitch Estates

Funch noted that gravel was installed on August 20 and work was completed.

### **Discussion**

#### Vote to Appoint New Member

Members discussed the appointment of Jeanne Ciampa to replace Lathrop who resigned at the last meeting.

**VOTE:** On a motion by McWade, seconded by Irelan, members recommended Ciampa be appointed by the Selectboard to the GTC. Unanimously approved.

#### Gratuity Rd Bridge

Funch stated that the bridge was a hazardous crossing for horses when wet. For a minimal cost, he suggested adding geotextile fabric and gravel to improve the bridge crossing. McWade offered to help with the installation.

**VOTE:** Peregoy made a motion to purchase materials at a cost not to exceed \$230; Murray seconded. Unanimously approved.

#### Boy Scout Troop Service Project

Legge reported that he has 5 boy scouts who will donate 3 hours each to help replace the Williams Barn bridge, which has a broken main support timber (1 of 3).

#### Trailhead Posts Needed

**VOTE:** Peregoy made a motion to purchase 6 trailhead posts at a cost not to exceed \$270; Legge seconded. Unanimously approved.

#### Chainsaw Safety Course

Funch is working with another group on funding options for supplementing the cost of this 2-day course (around \$200 per person) to be offered in the next year. Individual cost could be

\$50 - \$100 pp; either supplemented by grant and/or GTC. Adam, Peregoy, Cianci and Harris are interested in the course. Funch will keep GTC members updated.

#### Town Forest Race

Murray asked about volunteering at the Town Forest Race scheduled for October 24. Funch will be sending out a notice for volunteers; he will not be at the race this year.

#### Brown Lane/McLain's Woods Bridge

Easom asked that he give an update on this at the next GTC meeting.

#### GTC Contact Info

Funch asked that GTC members send him contact info for email and phone which he will compile and send to members.

#### **Adjournment**

**VOTE:** Peregoy moved to adjourn meeting; Murray seconded. Unanimously approved.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.