



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **November 16, 2021**

Attendees: (Present: X)			Visitors:
Chair	Paul Funch	X	Wendy Good
Vice Chair	Wanfang Murray	X	Bruce Easom
Clerk	Laura DeGroot	X	Ryan Fish
Members	Adam Burnett	X	Catherine Daly
	Jim Peregoy	X	
	Harris McWade	X	
	Stephen Legge	X	
	Lisa Irelan	X	
	Ralph Acaba	X	
	Derek Cianci		
	Jeanne Ciampa		

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Funch had significant changes to the Project Reports section and will send the clerk a copy of his amendments.

VOTE: Peregoy moved to accept minutes as amended, McWade seconded. Unanimously approved.

Eagle Scouts Projects

Ryan Fish

Ryan reported that he was an Ayer resident, has been a Boy Scout for 7 years and hopes to become an Eagle Scout in 1.5 years. For his Eagle Scout proposal, he suggested making planter boxes for public areas or design 3-10 metal historical trail signs (natural history, cultural info, etc.). Perego noted that planter boxes would need maintenance. Legge suggested benches at the Senior Center. Other suggestions for historic trail signs: do research at the Groton and Boston Historical Societies (history of the land); review native American influences; add historic information hyperlinked to trails on the interactive trail map. Fish plans to report his ideas back to the committee in a few months and to contact Funch with any questions.

Catherine Daly

Catherine is a 10th grader who loves to run the trails (is on the Groton cross-country running team); she asked for project ideas from the committee. Wendy Good suggested an inventory of erosion areas during her trail runs. Legge offered building an overlook platform for a special viewing area on a trail. Funch cited Vic's rest, a stone memorial for a former GTC member who helped restore Williams Barn. He suggested expanding the memorial to add his wife's name (Lee) or adding benches along the pond behind Williams Barn. She could also assist with the Bates property project. Funch will send her contact information for these projects. She plans to review the bridges and maintenance list for ideas and report back in January.

Reports

Signs

Lathrop has asked MassCor to correct the Priest trail signs they made. Funch replaced fallen tree signs using 2-inch nails.

Town Forest Trail Races

Only two GTC members were present; more members need to volunteer to help at the races next year.

Website and Interactive Map

Perego completed Funch's suggested map changes. McWade asked if she could gps trails. Perego responded that gps help is welcomed if there is a clear map mistake or a missing intersection. Funch reported that the GTC now has a Google account and the email address is: grotontrails1@gmail.com.

Trail Project Reports

Sorhaug Woods-Brooks Orchard Loop trail: Perego updated the OpenStreetsMap to show the new loop. Funch requested a map correction to show cross connection that bypasses the wet area near the stone wall.

Marion Stoddard Riverwalk: Funch reported that the DCR Trail proposal was verbally approved. A CPA fund application summary was submitted and met CPC criteria. Funch explained that the project will be covered by two funding programs: CPA and a state grant. Educational signs can be included in the CPA funding application; he is checking whether a parking lot can be included in the trail proposal. Other possible grant sources: Nashua River Watershed Association grants under Wild and Scenic Rivers; Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts; Freedom's Way.

Funch met with Ream Designs of Ayer to get design ideas and a cost estimate. Trail construction is scheduled for November 2022-March 2023.

An accessible trail is also being added to the Bates/Blackman property off Old Ayer Rd. Bob Pine is doing research on materials/design and Funch is collaborating with him.

McLain's Woods (sidewalk and field): Funch reported that the leaf blower chute broke while cleaning this area (uneven ground and poor blower design). Replacement parts will be ordered by Funch.

General Field mowing action item: Site walk tomorrow (November 17) at 3 pm with the GTC to discuss mowing and trail signs. Also will need to schedule a meeting with the farmers to discuss field maintenance timing.

Wharton Plantation: Cianci and his son Dylan will need to add a support beam (stringer) to be able to support horses crossing over the Wharton Plantation bridge.

Social Media/Groton Herald Column

Legge volunteered to write trails articles for the Groton Herald. Funch will send him the trails project list.

Discussions

Chainsaw Safety Course

Course is scheduled for December 4-5 at Barrett Park in Leominster. If interested, members need to send in money. Cost will be \$160-\$240 per person, depending on class size. GTC may cover up to half the cost.

VOTE: DeGroot made a motion that the GTC cover half the course cost; Peregoy seconded. Unanimous approval.

2021 Volunteer(s) of the Year

Funch reported that Greg Mendes had the most volunteer hours in 2021, but he was awarded last time (2019). Jack Petropoulos was also recommended; item to be voted on at the December meeting.

Town Forest's 100th Anniversary in 2022

Wanfang discussed anniversary event ideas. Suggestions included historic talk about the town forest; guided hike; anniversary button/plaque.

Adjournment

VOTE: DeGroot motioned to adjourn, Peregoy seconded; Unanimous approval.
Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.