



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **December 21, 2021**

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

Call to Order

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Committee Membership

Funch announced that this would be Lisa Irelan's last meeting, due to work obligations. Irelan would continue to handle the social media role until someone could take on this work. Funch also noted that Ciampa had resigned. He asked members to let him know if there are others they know who might be interested in serving on the GTC.

Approval of November 16 Meeting Minutes

Funch had many changes to the Project Reports section and will send the Clerk a copy of his edits. Given the number of corrections to the November minutes, approval was postponed until the January meeting.

Reports

Signs- Signatures for MassCor invoice

Invoice was circulated for GTC signatures.

Website and Interactive Map

Peregoy's recent edits to the online interactive map: corrected new Brooks Orchard Loop trail in Sorhaug Woods; moved sidewalks off roads to make them more visible; made changes to trails shown on Tom Delaney's property. Funch suggested that he offer Delaney that the Committee could post "Trail Closed" signs where the public property ends.

Funch expressed his opinion that the website's GTC email address should remain as is and not changed to the gmail address. The Committee consensus was to agree.

General Field Plans

Committee reviewed the agreement that the Groton Conservation Trust (GCT) wrote up after conferring with Funch at the General Field. Committee consensus was to support the agreement. Harris has started brush mowing the General Field area. Wendy Good will be installing bluebird boxes. GTC to continue working with the farmers and the GCT on the schedule for mowing the trails.

Nashua Riverwalk

Funch reported that the Community Preservation Act Grant Summary Project form is almost complete; deadline for the form is next Monday (December 27). Funch is still working on RDA. Property owner's (Dept. of Conservation and Recreation) written approval is being sought; this is required to be submitted with all grant submissions. Burnett offered to get estimate for granite curbing. Funch asked if some GTC members could review the grant application when it is completed.

Trailhead Post

Funch reported wooden posts are not available from any vendors (Home Depot, Lowe's, Gate City Fence) at this time due to supply chain problems.

Wharton Plantation

Cianci and his son Dylan repaired the cracked bridge; positive feedback on the repair. However, bridge will need a future upgrade to support equestrian users.

Eagle Scout Projects

Funch reported that he had not heard from Catherine Daly. Ryan Fish will be meeting with Josh Vollmar (former Groton Historical Society intern). Next step for his project: target properties to focus on; potential website information; develop a plan of action. Murray will be Fish's point of contact.

Discussions

2021 Annual Report

Legge is preparing the annual report for the Town, which will include, among other things, the trail projects completed in 2021.

Legge is writing GTC article for Groton Herald and DeGroot offered to review it.

2021 Volunteer of the Year Award

VOTE: Peregoy made a motion that Jack Petropoulos be given the annual Volunteer of the Year award (plus \$5 Johnson's gift card, GTC towel, and koozie) in recognition of his outstanding volunteer (and tractor) assistance in 2021; Irelan seconded. Unanimous approval.

Planning for Town Forest's 100th Anniversary in 2022

No update at this time.

Miscellaneous

Proposal to Connect Rt 119 to Nashua River Rail Trail: Burnett is interested in the design/installation of an ADA compliant trail from the sidewalk at the Route 119 bridge up to the Rail Trail. Possible funding could be from Recreation Trails Program and CPA funds. Funch offered to review the proposal and suggested that Bruce Easom could help with the survey and design that will be required.

Blackman Field and Woods: It was reported that 2 signs have been put up near the Forest Bells. These were probably not put up by the GCT as the land donor did not like signs. GCT will be notified.

West Throne Hill Conservation Land: Good raised a concern about the lack of trail markers on the trail that parallels Rockwood Ln. to the south. The possibility of adding trail markers to that trail was discussed. GCT needs to be consulted and the drainage area needs to be evaluated and flagged for a possible route to Townsend Rd.

Adjournment

VOTE: Burnett motioned to adjourn, Peregoy seconded the motion. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.