**\*\* Monthly Meeting Minutes \*\***

**February 15, 2022**

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| **Attendees: (**Present: X) | | | **Visitors:** |
| **Chair** | Paul Funch | X | Wendy Good |
| **Vice Chair** | Wanfang Murray | X | Tom Callahan |
| **Clerk** | Laura DeGroot | X |  |
| **Members** | Adam Burnett |  |  |
|  | Jim Peregoy | X |  |
|  | Harris McWade |  |  |
|  | Stephen Legge | X |  |
|  | Derek Cianci |  |  |
|  | Heidi Charlebois |  |  |
|  | Sheila Devereaux | X |  |
|  | Darlene Deschambeault | X |  |

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of January 18 Meeting Minutes**

**VOTE:** Legge moved to accept the January minutes as amended; Peregoy seconded.

Unanimously approved.

**Reports**

Website and Interactive Map – Trails on Private Property

*Trails on private property -* Discussed map display of non-public trails marked as gray on the interactive map. A resident has complained about four-wheel vehicle use near their recently acquired property and hoped the trail could be deleted from the map. Funch explained that we cannot control the trails that are uploaded into OpenStreetMaps but that we could, and did (thanks to Peregoy), indicate that the trails across their property were private. They were satisfied with this partial solution. They were also advised to post their property because the trail has been in common use for decades and old habits are hard to change.

*Map updates –* Peregoy corrected the Mahoney Lane area and removed tags for x-country ski trails since most of our trails are multi-use. He demonstrated a new map tool linked to field gps, allowing user to send an email message (tied to location) of areas needing maintenance (example: fallen tree).

Trail Project Reports

*Nashua Riverwalk –* Funch submitted Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant. DCR’s Director of External Affairs and Partnerships said the project will require a Notice of Intent (NOI) be filed with the Conservation Commission. NOI required because project is in an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Nick Gualco, Groton Conservation Administrator, will help GTC with the NOI filing. Funch is also updating our Community Preservation Act (CPA) application (educational signs and trail construction funding) due February 24th.

*Eagle Scout Project Updates –* Ryan Fish is meeting with property owners and getting comments on his historic signs project. Legge will contact Catherine Daly regarding the status of her project.

*Wiewel CA Trail Status –* Funch reported that the trail through Wiewel conservation land off Skyfields Drive ends at a wetlands area. Would like to add a loop or connection to nearby conservation land, if possible. Site review will be required to determine feasibility.

**Discussions**

Annual Report

Legge reviewed his report listing trail maintenance projects and trail improvements. Asked for comments and photos by noon next Thursday.

Vistaprint Business Cards and Other Products

Funch displayed new GTC business cards with updated email address and design. Total cost for 500 cards: $56.99. Funch noted we could acquire other products with GTC logo (ex: mouse pad).

**VOTE:**  Legge moved to approve business card order for $56.99; Murray seconded. Unanimously approved.

Planning for Town Forest’s 100th Anniversary in 2022

Murray reported that the Town Forest celebration will include guided walks and historical information from the Groton Historical Society. Town Forest 100th Anniversary planning committee is considering a variety of events for the spring and fall.

Destination Groton

Indian Hill Music Center opens Fall 2022; the newly formed Destination Groton Committee is planning for increased tourist activity through a series of public meetings and engaging with various stakeholders in the town. How can the GTC promote access to our trails and natural resources through our trail maps and website? How can we make our trails more accessible (parking, transportation) and highlight unique features on our trails?

Conservation Forum on February 17

The 8th Annual Conservation Forum will be held via Zoom at 7 pm on February 17. Each conservation organization/group will give an overview of their role, past year accomplishments, future projects and share items of mutual interest.

**Adjournment**

**VOTE:** DeGroot made a motion to adjourn; Peregoy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.