



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes **** **May 17, 2022**

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

Call to Order

Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of April 19 Meeting Minutes

VOTE: Legge moved to accept the April minutes; Peregoy seconded. Unanimously approved.

Reports

Gamlin Crystal Spring: Posts at entrance to parking area need to be removed because of interference with snowplowing.

Rich State Forest: Two bridges and one bog bridge are proposed; all to be horse worthy. Someone needs to head up this project with DCR. Potential project for student conservation volunteers.

Website and Interactive Map: A large map of the town's trails (size 36" x 55") was printed by the Groton Public Library for use at various festivals. Peregoy recommended a smaller map which he displayed at the meeting (26" x 32") for use on the 30-inch booth table. Funch reported the GTC could purchase plexiglass and lightweight plywood for under \$175 for the map table display.

VOTE: Members approved purchasing plywood and plexiglass, not to exceed \$175; vote unanimous.

Freedom's Way's "Hidden Treasures": Three hikes are planned 1) on 5/14, 8:30 am, Blackman Field & Woods Guided Walk lead by Murray and Murray; 2) 5/21, 10:00 am, Wharton Plantation Biodiversity and Glacial Geology Walk lead by Funch, Devereaux, McWade; 3) 5/28, 10:30, Storytime Walk: A River Ran Wild, along John Tinker Trail lead by Devereaux.

February 16, 2023, Groton Conservation Forum: GTC received \$500 grant for forum speaker. Charlebois, Funch and Murray reviewed forum topics and recommended climate change and ways to mitigate it. Location of forum to be determined.

Trail Projects:

Nate Nutting Mill Site: Fallen trees cleared by Charlebois, Funch, Legge, and Peregoy.

Nashua Riverwalk: CPA grant of \$61,000 approved at Town Meeting. Still waiting for state grant approval. Next step: DCR approval of NOI, followed by ConsComm review.

Harrison Ripley Forest: Goal is to reroute the trail crossing private property owned by Ben Black. Concerns raised that proposed route was too remote, too environmentally sensitive for hikers, and not horse friendly. Committee members encouraged to view flagged trail.

Flavell Crossing (new project): Trail Closed sign installed by Funch for trail section crossing over private property. Map corrected to direct users away from private property.

Groton Hills (new project): Needs bridge over bog area, approximately 3-4 8-foot sections. Will require RDA; members asked to site visit.

Baddacook CA: Wetland area around the pond was recently transferred from NEFF to the Cons Comm. GTC could help with proposed bog bridge and loop trail (RDA required).

Town Forest Trail Re-route to Nashua River: 600-foot section of trail crosses over private property. Proposed route is flagged for Committee members to review.

Priest Trail Signs: Signs installed; also sign added at Martins Pond Rd end.

Keyes Woods: Funch did site walk with New England Forestry Foundation Director. NEFF supported desire to cleanup dumpsite located at trailhead off Peabody Street. Four bog bridges needed will require RDA. Wendy Good was asked to get specs on black tubing used for culverts for horse crossings.

Gamlin Crystal Spring: RDA required for a bog bridge located along Boulder trail and two bog bridges in beaver pond area below Indian Rock.

Discussions

Groton Greenway River Festival (June 12): Murray can't attend so 12-2 pm trail walk cancelled. Volunteer schedule: Funch/Peregoy/Cianci 9:30 am- 12; Deschambeault/Funch/Harris 12-2 pm; Funch/Good 2-4 pm.

Perry Land: Susan Hughes and Funch walked property located west of Fitch Woods. Possibility of a loop trail near gorge area.

Trail Rider Program: Deschambeault will research whether there's a need for handicapped assistance trail rider program in Groton.

Adjournment

VOTE: On motion by Legge, seconded by Harris, meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.