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

**June 21, 2022**

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

**Call to Order -** Chair Funch called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**Approval of May 17 Meeting Minutes**

**VOTE:**  Peregoy moved to accept the May minutes as amended to correct a trail

project description. Legge seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Reports**

Website and Interactive Map: Trail map display using plexiglass and plywood at Groton Greenway River Festival worked well; final cost for the display was $110.

Freedom’s Way’s “Hidden Treasures”: Hikes and talks by Deveraux, McWade, Murrays, and Funch were successful. Overall event had a lot of activities throughout the region, so “competition” by the venues for participants was strong.

Groton Greenway River Festival booth: McWade, Cianci, Deschambeault, Peregoy, Good, and Funch worked the booth. Burnett oversaw boating activities. Legge assisted with the cardboard canoe race. Music program was a very popular activity this year.

2023 Groton Conservation Forum (February 2023): The Groton Trails Committee is responsible for organizing this forum in 2023. Grant from Groton Trust Fund was approved for keynote speaker Dr. Scott Jackson, UMass-Amherst. Location of forum to be determined, possibly Lawrence Academy or Groton Center.

Trail Projects:

*Town Forest trail re-route from parking area to Nashua River:* 600-foot section of trail crosses over private property in Ames Meadows. Bruce Easom and Funch conducted a survey to confirm this and flagged the proposed trail relocation. Funch is meeting with the Town Forest Committee tomorrow (June 22).

*Gamlin Crystal Spring*: Funch is assisting Groton Conservation Trust with RDA filing submitted to Conservation Commission and state Department of Environmental Protections (DEP) for three bog bridges. Initial DEP determination was that the bridge design required a NOI application due to wetland removal for bridge supports.

*NOI for Nashua Riverwalk, RDAs for Keyes Woods, Gamlin Crystal Springs, and Groton Hills* are all in progress. The state’s Recreational Trail Program grant for Nashua Riverwalk was approved. June 28th is award ceremony; Funch will be out of town and would like to have a GTC member attend.

*Tree Removals:* Fallen trees were cleared from the following areas by Funch and Burnett: Hawtree, Town Forest; Farmers and Mechanics.

Subcommittee Reports:

*Town Forest’s 100th Anniversary in 2022 (Devereaux, Murray):* No update.

*Destination Groton (Legge, Murray, Funch, McWade):* McWade attended a Destination Groton Committee public hearing where the logistics of parking and use of the Nashua River Rail Trail were discussed. Legge might attend the final community hearing on Saturday, June 25.

*Groton Conservation Forum (Murray, Charlebois, Funch):* See above.

*Social Media Management (Cianci, Murray):* No update.

*Mapping/Website Management (McWade):* No update.

**Discussions**

Potential 2022 Projects

Individual Projects: Opportunities for committee members to pick individual projects.

*Stewardship assessments:* New committee members asked to add their names to the parcel spreadsheet. Trail stewardship activities include trimming, mowing, noting erosion issues, and adding/replacing trail markers.

Funch will show members how to use trimmer and brush mower if they are able to do these activities.

*Verification of/additions to map information:* Identify map discrepancies while hiking trails

(private trails, missing trails, etc.).

Large Projects:

*Site preparation for Nashua Riverwalk in October/November:* Rest area, observation area, and parking area need to be cleared and Funch is seeking help with project management.

*Bog bridges at Gamlin Crystal Spring, Keyes Woods (plus dump cleanup), and Groton Hills:* Legge asked for overview of bog bridge design. Simplest design (Gamlin Spring) is 19 inches wide, using 2x10 planks with 4x4 cross-supports spaced every 4 feet. In Keyes Woods, for a 4-foot equestrian bridge: 4x4 beams, 3-foot-wide bridge, 1-1/2 feet apart, 3 beams, 2x4 headers, cement blocks on four corners and ends of center beam, 2x4 “slip-guard” edges on sides of bridge for equestrian safety. Designs will be put on Google Docs when completed.

Miscellaneous Discussions

*Motorized vehicles on trails:* McWade reported that a resident attending Greenway River Festival expressed concern over lack of trails that allow motorized vehicles like dirt bikes and ATVs. Extensive discussion about pros/cons of allowing this. Funch noted that GTC does not set policy or own property, and that concerned residents need to petition landowners about vehicular use on their land. McWade asked that this topic be kept on future meeting agendas.

*Access to Rail Trail at bridge over Rte. 119:* Burnett gave update on this project, stating that there may be an opportunity to gain access to the Rail Trail from Arlington St. Charlebois suggested using an intern to help with the design of this project.

**Adjournment**

**VOTE:** On motion by DeGroot, seconded by Peregoy, approved unanimously, meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.