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

**October 18, 2022**

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

**Call to Order** Funch called the meeting to order at 7:09.

**VOTE: Minutes from Sept. 20, 2022**. Motion to accept made by Murray, seconded by Cianci. Motion approved by unanimous roll-call vote.

**Website Interactive Map:** Peregoy is continuing to work on updates and functionality providing gps location for trail users. Emails do not appear to be forwarded by trails@grotonma.gov any longer. Peregoy is working with IT Dept to resolve problem, but recent security updates may be precluding a fix. Meanwhile, Groton.trails.network@gmail.com is now where emails will be sent from the interactive map.

**Reports**:

* Funch mowed the Hurd and Johnston properties.
* Trees have been cleared off trails by Funch in Integrity Way, McLain’s Woods, Fitch-Woods, Angus Acre, Town Forest, and Sorhaug Woods. Blackman Woods & Field trail needs tree removal near The Bells, and a tree needs to be cleared in another nearby area.(Charlebois to follow up.)
* Lynch doing trail marking in Wharton and Red Line. Close to completion.
* Funch and Lynch repaired bridge planks in Wharton. Trail Closed signs were installed in Wharton below the esker trail off Dan Parker to deter foot and bike traffic that is damaging Lady Slippers. Lynch added some logs to further discourage traffic.
  + Will ask Peregoy to remove the trail from the map or otherwise mark it as closed.
* Gamlin Crystal Spring bog bridges were approved by Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Conservation Commission can now proceed with reviewing the RDA.
* The Nashua Riverwalk’s observation area was approved by DCR after walkthrough. DCR is still opposed to the loop trail or additional parking. Discussions are still in progress. Deed was reviewed by Funch to determine proper ownership of the area north of Nod Brook; DCR ownership seems unlikely. Funch will seek clarification on whether the awarded grant money can be extended another year if this delay prevents construction during the November 2022-March 2023 window.
* Town Forest Trail Races were a success. Peregoy and Funch were the only GTC members to attend. Funch encouraged better attendance next year for it is our only source of funding. Registration was a bit lower than average with a total of 100 runners.
* McWade reported that she and Laurie Smigelski will mow the trails that were agreed upon by the Groton Conservation Trust and then put signage at General Field in coordination with Chuck Vander Linden of the GCT.

**Subcommittee reports:**

* To celebrate the Groton Town Forest’s 100th anniversary, Deveraux and Funch will do a guided hike on November 27th, starting at 1:00. Murray will secure Josh Vollmar’s attendance.
* Social Media – Murray fields questions that come in. Hunting questions have arisen lately, such as, When are the seasons to keep people and pets safe while hiking? Where is hunting permitted? Peregoy will be asked to insert links to State hunting regulations and guidelines and also links to Groton’s major open space landholders (Conservation Commission, GCT, NEFF, MassAudubon, DCR) so that the public can get their parcel-specific rules.
* Mapping and Website Management - Cianci will post more photos to Facebook. Anyone can upload, and Cianci will help if needed. Cianci and Peregoy will look into who is the manager of our GoogleDocs repository and will see who has permission to access it.

**Open Discussion**

* A new trail has been approved on GCT’s Perry Land – Work will be scheduled for November 19th or 26th
* RDA for Keyes Woods bog bridges needs to be written and submitted to the Conservation Commission for their review. Dump site cleanup will also be included: old glass bottles, cans, et cetera, covered with knotweed. Best time for cleanup is spring, before the knotweed starts growing. NEFF has already approved. Possibly a good project for a scout troop. Invasive Species Committee will also be involved.
* Trailhead posts need to be replaced around town. Funch and Lynch will kick-off this effort and then train others who are interested in helping. Cianci and Charlebois expressed interest. It was suggested that Lynch and Funch might make a video tutorial of how to do the installations and post it on the website., Efforts to solicit volunteers from the public will also be made if needed.
* Lynch plans to trim the top section of the Scarlet Hill Trail where fences and invasives border the trail.

**Reminder**: Committee members should monitor the parcels you have signed up for in GoogleDocs at least once a year. We cannot fix what we do not know about.

Funch will be unable to attend the November 15 meeting. Murray will lead the meeting.

**VOTE:** Cianci moved to adjourn, and Murray seconded. Motion approved by unanimous roll-call vote at 8:23