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

**November 15, 2022**

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

**Call to Order** Murray called the meeting to order at 7:08

**VOTE: Minutes from October18, 2022**. Motion to accept made by Legge, seconded by Peregoy. Motion approved by unanimous roll-call vote.

**Mapping Updates**

* + Peregoy created a Gmail account for GTC. Our Google Drive is under John Ellenberger’s account. John’s account has many resigned members with access and new members with no access. We need to move all files from Ellenberger’s account to our new GTC Google Drive account and give all current members access. Peregoy will do this.
  + Historical location information: Murray spoke to Kara Fossey, Executive Director of Groton Historical Center (GHC), about linking to information on the GHC site. Murray will meet with Kara again in December about the GHC links. Murray will forward Joshua Vollmar’s Groton Town Forest presentation to Peregoy for posting on the Google Drive.
  + Lynch gave an update about the Dan Parker Rd. North Loop on Wharton Plantation, which has had a segment along the beaver pond. When under water, which was often, people would climb on the embankment and kill Lady slippers by doing so. The path has now been marked as closed and the embankment detour has been blocked by Lynch. Interactive map needs to indicate the trail is closed.

**Reports**

* Trail project at 10am on Saturday, November 19th will be for the construction of a new trail on the Groton Conservation Trust’s (GCT’s) Perry Land. Funch will send out a notice to the listserver.
* Chris Pincott of Dunstable, a Junior at GDRHS, is planning to pursue an Eagle Scout project. He would like to do trail maintenance, cleaning, building bridges, etc. It needs be a project wherein he can lead other scouts. Funch recommended GCT’s Gamlin Springs (West) bog bridges. Murray will consult Funch and GCT about the site and the project scope and schedule a walkthrough with GCT, Chris Pincott, and Rich Lynch. Chris will then initiate the project with his Eagle Scout team.
* Replacing trailhead posts: Funch and Lynch put one on Duck Pond Dr. and one in front of the field at Skitapet. However, the Mountain Lakes Club asked us to remove the post and so we will move it behind the Lost Lake Fire Station.
* Scarlet Hill Trail: Lynch confirmed that this is all in good shape. Someone else did some cleaning and Lynch did some additional cleaning/trimming.
* No response yet from the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on their approval of the Nashua Riverwalk’s Notice of Intent (NOI) that Funch submitted.
* Mass Open Space Network’s Outdoor Recreation Survey – Funch asked everyone to take a look and complete it.
* Ryan Fish – He completed his Eagle Scout project (historical signs at Shepley Hills and General Field) and had a ceremony for the sign at General Field on October 23rd, attended by Funch.

**Subcommittee reports:**

* MassTrails Conference - no one was able to attend this biannual conference.
* Groton Town Forest’s 100th Anniversary: Devereaux and Funch will give a guided hike on November 27th, starting at 1:00pm. Josh Vollmar will provide his presentation on the history of the Town Forest.
* Destination Groton - Legge has no update. He will contact the committee to see if there is anything to report.
* Social Media - Cianci posted some information about hunting and hikes on Facebook. Lisa Irelan asked to mention the dog leash law with respect to the Bancroft Castle trails, after an instance of a dog chasing cows and causing damage. People have also climbed over the fence and used drones, thus disturbing the cows. Legge suggested we post a private property sign. Deschambeault stated that there might already be signs, but they were being ignored. Murray suggested a sign at the trailhead. Legge questioned if we were the party that needed to resolve this issue. Deschambeault suggested “please adhere to the trails” sign. Ordinance signs could be posted for dog owners at the trailhead. Lynch will walk the trail and see what signs are currently posted and report back.
* Adaptive/Accessibility Trails - Deschambeault is interested in accessible trails, not purchasing a trail rider due to liability.

**Open Discussion**

* Burnett is inquiring with the Conductor Lab Committee regarding the status of the transfer of Parcel #110-7, 0.6 acres, to the Town of Groton. Once the land is owned by the Town, the GTC can recommend building a trail to connect Arlington St. to the Nashua River Rail Trail.

**VOTE:** Legge moved to adjourn, and Deschambeault seconded. Motion approved by unanimous roll-call vote at 8:10.