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

**17 October 2023**

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| **Attendees: (**Present = X) | | | **Visitors:** |
| Chair | Paul Funch | X | Wendy Good |
| Vice Chair | Wanfang Murray | X |  |
| Co-Clerk | Britt McKinley | X |  |
|  | Bob Fournier | X |  |
| Members |  |  |  |
|  | Kiirja Paananen | X |  |
|  | Harris McWade | X |  |
|  | Steve Legge | X |  |
|  | Richard Lynch | X |  |
|  | Jim Peregoy | X |  |
|  | Tom Montilli | X |  |
|  | Ken Adams | X |  |

1. Called to order at 7:02 by Funch. Meeting held in The Groton Center, Room 102.
2. **VOTE:** To approve minutes from 19 September 2023 meeting. Motion made by McKinley, seconded by Adams, and passed by unanimous vote.
3. **Reports**
   1. Trail Projects
      1. Stoddart Trail  
         Suggestion to add a face plate to the ends of the bridges to stop the gravel. Funch asked for a 4’ and a 10’ by 4 foot bridge drawing for another project. McKinley will send the Request for Determination of Applicability to NEFF for approval and then to the Conservation Commission for their review. Committee talked about the amount of money to put toward the project and consensus was for around $200.
      2. Nashua Riverwalk  
         Funch reports that there is no progress. DCR is not responding to emails or phone calls. Project is not likely to be able to be finished this year even if it is approved immediately. Both Funch and Representative Scarsdale are at a loss for how to get it approved.
      3. Trail Maintenance - Since the last meeting, the following has been accomplished  
         Bates-Blackman - chainsawed 2 trees; trail clean-up

Fitch-Woods - chainsawed tree

Gamlin Crystal Springs – trails cleaned-up

Groton Hills - mowed trail

Hayes Woods - chainsawed tree

Hurd - mowed entrance (flooded beyond)

Ice Line Trail - chainsawed large tree

Longley II – chainsawed 2 trees

McLain’s Woods - chainsawed tree; trimmed and cleared path off McLain’s Woods Rd.; mowed field; cleared off sidewalk; opened up drainage grates

Skinner Forest - chainsawed large tree

Sorhaug Woods - chainsawed large tree at pond

Spencer Circle - trimmed trail; connected trail with The Groton Center garden area

Still Meadow - mowed trails

Surrenden Farm - 6 large trees chainsawed.

Town Forest - chainsawed 11 trees

Wharton Plantation - mowed trails; clean-up North and South loop trails

* + 1. New Trails Approval

a) Harrison J. Ripley Forest Trail - Approved by Conservation Commission (pending approval by landowner)   
b) Groton Center to Spencer Circle Trail – Survey conducted. Permission obtained from Town Manager. Performed rough clearing of trail. Slated to be a pollinator corridor. Still need to have the stumps removed and some clean up.

* 1. Grotonfest Recap - Committee thanks Montilli for the great marketing material. In general, it went great.
  2. 25th Anniversary, Business Card, Pamphlets, Social Media, Print MediaAll materials produced/copied/ordered and made available by Montilli. Montilli also donated stands for displaying the various products. Paananen and Murray have been posting on social media and getting a lot of likes.
  3. Website and Maps  
     Talked about people using the maps and submitting finished locations for 25th Anniversary challenge.
  4. Sign Subcommittee  
     There will be a Check Presentation ceremony at General Field on October 20 at 1:00pm; Destination Groton, Town of Groton officials, State Sen. John Cronin, et al., will be attending. Money will go into the Trails Committee’s gift fund with the Town.
  5. **VOTE:** Harris made a motion, seconded by Lynch, to reimburse $200 to Montilli for marketing material and $29.99 to Funch for survey tape. Passed by unanimous vote.

1. **Discussions**
   1. CPA Discussion  
      Funch suggested applying for CPA funds to match the money from Destination Groton. Asked Community Preservation Committee members if equipment can be paid for with CPA funds but waiting for a response. CPA funds cannot be used for training. Money can be used for any public purpose, but a project does not need to be performed on town land. Proposal about how funds would be used is due to the CPC by October 26th. Preliminary proposal will be reviewed for adherence to CPA regulations at the CPC Meeting on November 13.   
      Funch showed power wheelbarrows, augers, and trenchers that the committee might consider purchasing.
   2. Town Forest Races - Happening on Sunday, October 21.
   3. Website Refresh Subcommittee  
      Montilli, Lynch, Peregoy, and Paananen talked about possible improvements. Talked about changing to a tool-based site from a text editor site. Proposal is for a standing subcommittee. Montilli, Adams, Peregoy and Paananen agreed to form a subcommittee.
   4. Liaisons to Town Boards/Committees/Commissions  
      Funch reported on Stewardship Committee - ATVs have been riding over the Throne a lot. The Groton Conservation Trust is going to be putting up more “No motorized vehicles” signs.
2. **Adjournment**

**VOTE:** Motion to adjourn was made at 8:49 pm and passed by unanimous vote.