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

**21 November 2023**

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

1. Called to order at 7:07 by Funch. Meeting held in The Groton Center, Room 102.
2. **VOTE:** To approve minutes from 17 October 2023 meeting. Motion made by Lynch, seconded by Legge, and passed by unanimous vote.
3. **Reports**
   1. Trail Projects
      1. Stoddart Trail  
         RDA submitted to NEFF. No response yet.
      2. Nashua Riverwalk  
         Funch reports that there is some progress with existing contacts. Peter Cunningham will bring it up in a meeting with the DCR Commissioner at the end of month.
   2. Trail Maintenance - Since the last meeting, the following has been accomplished:
      1. Angus Acre - chainsawed tree and trimmed trail
      2. Batten Woods - brush mowed new trail route from Orion Way cul-de-sac, trimmed bushes, blew trail clear. Paul working with Conservation Committee to help resolve path and boundary issues
      3. Gamlin Crystal Spring - added markers to White trail and smaller Boulder loop
      4. Gamlin Esker - chainsawed 2 trees
      5. Gibbet Hill - chainsawed tree on Rte. 40
      6. Groton Hills - repaired bridges
      7. Groton Woods - chainsawed 2 trees on trail across from Forest Ln.
      8. McLain’s Woods - blew leaves off sidewalk and the hellstrip
      9. Red Line - added markers to base of Gamlin Esker trail, fixed sign post
      10. Harry Rich State Forest’s Tinker Trail - blew trail off
      11. Spencer Circle - removed stumps on new segment connecting with The Groton Center’s garden area
      12. Still Meadow – helped GCT clear trees off field
      13. Throne - chainsawed 3 trees off trails
      14. Wharton Plantation - On North Loop, cut 2 trees, repaired and reinstalled 2 “No ATV” signs at gate. Bridge is in poor shape, footers have been displaced
      15. Bates land - bridges are not horse-ready.
   3. Social Media – Good amount of information being provided to the public lately, including hunting schedules
   4. Website Refresh Subcommittee Presentation
      1. Reviewed other local hiking/conservation websites (Concord, Westford, etc.)
      2. Discussed with Scott Lewis, whose business designs and maintains trail websites
         1. Uses Wordpress with common plugins
         2. Easier to maintain
         3. Used by many other local conservation websites
         4. Will still allow committee to edit content
      3. Next steps - subcommittee to get firm quote from Scott Lewis
   5. New trail connection from Reedy Meadow to Casella property via GDRSD parcel (230-46). Conservation Commission has just purchased the Marsh parcel (230-31), 15 acres.
4. **Discussions**
   1. CPA Grant Request
      1. Project was acceptable to CPC. Concurrence by Town Counsel was obtained.
      2. Still need to determine best quality price-point for some of the equipment. Will solicit opinions from landscapers.
      3. Need to have a workable plan for storage and accountability of property owned by Trails Committee.
   2. December Meeting - Consensus of those present was to *not* schedule a meeting for December
   3. Meeting Site - Groton Center or Legion Hall?
      1. Consensus of those present was to continue meeting at The Groton Center in 2024
   4. FY25 budget to Town Manager   
      Funds needed for website (fees), training (chainsaw safety certification, accessible trails, conferences, etc.), tool and equipment maintenance (gas, bar oil, oil changes, 2-cycle oil, battery replacements, chainsaw blades, spark plugs, repairs, etc.), Grotonfest fees, etc. Funch will set up meeting with Town Manager to discuss adding budget for FY25.
5. **Adjournment**

**VOTE:** Motion to adjourn was made at 8:26 pm and passed by unanimous vote.