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

**19 March 2024**

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| **Attendees: (**Present = X) | | | **Visitors:** |
| Chair | Paul Funch | X | Bruce Johnson |
| Vice Chair | Wanfang Murray | X |  |
| Co-Clerk | Britt McKinley |  |  |
| Co-Clerk | Bob Fournier | X |  |
| Members |  |  |  |
|  | Kiirja Paananen | X |  |
|  | Harris McWade | X |  |
|  | Steve Legge | X |  |
|  | Richard Lynch | X |  |
|  | Jim Peregoy |  |  |
|  | 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 20 February 2024 meeting. Motion made by Funch, seconded by Adams, and passed by unanimous vote.
3. **Reports**
4. Sign Subcommittee
   1. Lynch reported that the Sign Subcommittee met last week to replan project considering the reduction in funding to $7,500. The only change is that the fixed signs would be reduced to two non-custom signs. The recommendation is to have one for the pollinator garden and one for invasive species.
      1. Discussion: The Pollinator Garden near Groton Center is an obvious choice for the pollinator sign. The suggestion is to have the invasive species one at Williams Barn, although signs in that area have generally not been approved by the Williams Barn Committee.
      2. Nicole Sarvela (Council on Aging Director) would have to approve the sign at the Pollinator Garden.
5. Committee’s 25th Anniversary Patch
   1. McWade reported that she has not heard back from her contact who makes patches so she is considering alternatives and will report back at the next meeting.
      1. Discussion: It was decided that the patch should be
         1. 2½ inch diameter
         2. Stick-on type
         3. Consist of two colors - 2 greens plus white background
         4. It will also still say **25 years** even though we’re extending into year 26.
6. Annual Town Meeting is on Tuesday, March 26th
   1. Trails Committee has a CPC request (Article 13, CPC Proposal K) for $12,195 for tools and equipment.
   2. Paul prepared a presentation about the tools and equipment if there are questions from the Town Meeting.
7. Freedom’s Way National Heritage Association’s <https://freedomsway.org/> ”Hidden Treasures” Program
   1. Groups like ours are urged to create a public event in our local area and enter it on the Freedom’s Way website.
   2. Previously we had listed hikes and one year did a trolley bus tour to show geographical features in Groton.
   3. Grant submission deadline is April 15th for event in May.
   4. McWade has offered to lead a hike (bird themed)
   5. Funch has offered to lead a hike (glacial features themed)
   6. Need to avoid conflicts in May (May 5th is Groton Road Race, May 12th is Mother’s Day, and May 19th is Spring Grotonfest)
8. Trail Projects
   1. Funch presented the list of trail projects for 2024. The list is ordered by priority with projects given a 1, 2, or 3 (1 being the highest priority). In addition, each project has an estimate for the number of people required, along with whether or not a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) needs to be submitted to the Conservation Commission.
   2. Committee members signed up to lead projects, discussed scope of projects, and debated relative importance.
   3. All projects with priority 1 and 2 were assigned to committee members. Some changes were made to the priorities.
   4. The updated list is available to review on GoogleDocs.
9. **Adjournment**

**VOTE:** Motion to adjourn was made at 9:02 pm and passed by unanimous vote.