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

**15 April 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

**Conference Room 112 - The Groton Center – 163 W. Main St., W. Groton**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Attendees: (**Present = X) | | | **Visitors:** |
| Chair | Paul Funch | X | Bruce Johnson |
| Vice Chair | Britt McKinley | X |  |
| Clerk | Bob Fournier | X |  |
| Members |  |  |  |
|  | Kiirja Paananen | X |  |
|  | Josh LoPresti | X |  |
|  | Steve Legge |  |  |
|  | Richard Lynch | X |  |
|  | Jim Peregoy | X |  |
|  | Tom Montilli | X |  |
|  | Dan Pierpont | X |  |
|  | Tom Gulick | X |  |

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

**VOTE**: To approve 18 March 2025 minutes

Funch made the motion, Lynch seconded it, and it passed by unanimous vote.

**REPORTS**

* Nashua Riverwalk Trail Educational Signage

Received comments on sign text from DCR on March 24. Some possible disconnects have arisen with DCR. Meeting with DCR to discuss text, photos, and placements has been postponed. Deadline for spending NRWA’s Wild & Scenic grant is at the end of April. Ready to select a sign vendor as soon as the sign content appears finalized. Will then need to contract for additional crushed rock aggregate at “bump-outs” for wheelchair access as well as installation of granite curbing. Finally, contracting will be needed for installations of helical piers, sign frames, and handicap picnic table.

* “Hidden Treasures” by Freedom’s Way

Funch submitted a hike planned for Saturday, May 10 at 9:00 am, starting at Sand Hill Rd. parking lot on NRRT.

* Trail Maintenance
  + 1. Lots of trees were chainsawed by Montilli and LoPresti, and five by Funch.
    2. Bog bridge on The Throne broke apart. Frame was repaired, 2 planks replaced, concrete block added for support, and steel rod added to hold bridge in place by Lynch, Gulick, Funch, and Mendes.
    3. Offer of trail work help from NEFF Board member on April 12 or 26. Rain nixed 12th. Group decided on a beach project instead.
    4. Near-term projects
       - 1. Blowing off debris from Nashua River Rail Trail (Funch)
         2. Wharton Plantation bridge replacement (Montilli and LoPresti) 4/27

Lumber will be delivered on 4/25 and work will be done on 4/27.

* + - * 1. Wildflower Garden at Wharton Plantation landing area (Lynch) 4/27

Seven people have signed up; need 10. Getting flower donations.

* + - * 1. Gratuity Bridge repair of tree-fall damage (LoPresti)

The tree has been removed. Repairs to be scheduled.

* + - * 1. New trail creation in the Water Dept. parcel parallel to Schoolhouse Rd. (McKinley)

To provide access to Martins Pond Rd. without using a private driveway as the current trail does. This trail is a critical connection between Rte. 40 (powerlines to Brown Loaf property and beyond) and Martins Pond Rd., which avoids using the narrow and busy Schoolhouse Rd.

* + Sign Subcommittee (Funch, Lynch, Montilli, and Paananen)
    1. Many trailhead posts need to be replaced. Paul has a list and will send it out.
    2. Parcel sign (Bixby) needs to be installed.
    3. Wayfinding/distance signs need to be designed and installed. E.g., Groton Hills.
    4. Road crossing signs are needed on Brown Trail. Elsewhere?
    5. Discussion with the Town Forest Committee on trail signs and marking.

**DISCUSSIONS**

* + Miscellaneous issues
    1. Casella trail reroute needs to be reflagged, cleared, and marked. (Paananen/Fournier)
    2. Private trail marker signage guidelines are needed. (Paananen)
    3. Discussion with Groton School regarding trail maintenance is being coordinated. (Funch)
    4. Presentation to the Conservation Commission on holding a Public Hearing on the Paquawket Path easement is scheduled for April 22. (Funch)
    5. Some suggestions for trails and objects for scavenger hunt have been made. More would be helpful. (Funch)
    6. Need to find source for 1 ½ “ aluminum nails and order some.
    7. GrotonFest Spring is May 18th, 11 am - 3 pm.
       1. We will hand out stickers (not the 25th anniversary ones). Tom will order.
       2. Britt will create a sign-up genius for volunteers.
  + Review Parcel Stewardship Spreadsheet
    1. We need to get out on the trails to detect needs for maintenance (clearing limbs, widening, trail markers, directional and distance signage, drainage and erosion issues, need for bridges, tripping hazards, etc.)
    2. Some parcels have no stewards yet. Members were asked to review spreadsheet and sign up for more parcels if they can.
  + Website Prototype Review
    1. Lynch gave presentation that showed website organization and examples of content. Members were asked to help fill in data forms provided by Lynch for individual parcels.
    2. Interactive map maintenance will remain as it is done now. Peregoy has documented the procedures and he will work with anyone who wishes to help.
    3. Suggestion to split up the properties among committee members to research, photograph, and write up descriptions of properties.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Peregoy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lynch, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:01.