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

**20 May 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

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

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| **Attendees: (**Present = X) | | | **Visitors:** |
| Chair | Paul Funch | X | Bruce Johnson |
| Vice Chair | Britt McKinley | X | Wendy Good |
| 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 7:01 pm.

**VOTE**: To approve 15 April 2025 minutes

Lynch made motion to accept, McKinley seconded, passed by unanimous vote.

**REPORTS**

* Nashua Riverwalk Trail Educational Signage   
  Met with CPC (5/12) to determine their interest in being listed on educational signage as a supporter. They voted to request having a logo with the Town of Groton Seal and “CPA.” Overall layout design for all four signs and text and photos for “River Ecology” sign is nearly complete.
* “Hidden Treasures” by Freedom’s Way  
  Funch held a hike on Sunday, 5/11, (Mother’s Day) due to rain postponement on 5/10. Paananen and one other person participated. Covered 3.5 miles of 6.0 miles planned due to flooding along the main Rich SF trail. Sent letters of support for National Heritage Areas Program funding to Representative Lori Trahan, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Senator Edward Markey per request by Freedom’s Way.
* 25th Anniversary “Places of Special Interest”  
  Final four letters and patches sent out. Next stop: 2028!
* Trail Maintenance
  + Wharton Plantation bridge and approaches completed.
  + Wharton Plantation Wildflower Garden prepared and planted.
  + Stoddart Trail geo-grid extensions in progress
  + Gratuity Brook bridge repair completed.
  + Cleared sidewalks on McLain’s Woods Rd.
  + Tree clearing in Casella, Town Forest, and other parcels.
* Paquawket Path Easement   
  Discussion held with the Conservation Commission (4/22) to develop a plan for discussing easement signage with abutters; Bruce Easom (Chair) will take lead in contacting abutters to schedule site walk with him and Trails Committee.
* Sign Subcommittee (Funch, Lynch, Montilli, and Paananen)  
  Permission obtained from Conservation Commission (5/13) to install Invasive Species sign at Sorhaug field behind Williams Barn; sign installed 5/17.
* GrotonFest Spring
  + McKinley, Funch, Montilli, Lynch, Gulick, and Fournier set up booth, answered questions, asked for photographers to take photos of identifying aspects of parcels for the new website, got many to join the listserver, and encouraged participation in “25 Special Places” and this summer’s “Scavenger Hunt”.
  + Virginia Wood provided sample mugs that will be raffled off among those participating for free prizes.
* Scavenger hunt, planned for July/August  
  Generated ideas for trail checklist and points/objects of interest.

**DISCUSSIONS**

* National Trails Day – June 7 (Saturday)
  + Hikes can be submitted for national dissemination.
* Miscellaneous issues
  + Casella trail reroute - Paul and Kiirja to walk and mark it this week.
* Committee’s 2025 Goals - Goals will be submitted to the Select Board per their request to all committees.

**VOTE:** McKinley made motion to send goals list to Select Board, seconded by Pierpoint, passed by unanimous vote.

* Website Roll-out  
  Plan to start soft roll-out starting on July 1, 2025 to permit using Town-provided FY26 budget for the maintenance contract with Lewis Studios.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

* Montilli presented a $450 gift from the Niemoller family to the Trails Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTE:** Peregoy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lynch, passed by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.