**Meeting Minutes**

**17 June 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 | Laurie Smigelski |
| Vice Chair | Britt McKinley | X | Wendy Good |
| Clerk | Bob Fournier | X | Nathalie Pierpont |
| Members |  |  | Jack Norman |
|  | Kiirja Paananen | X | Elsa Pierpont |
|  | Josh LoPresti | X |  |
|  | Steve Legge | X |  |
|  | Richard Lynch |  X |  |
|  | Jim Peregoy |  X |  |
|  | Tom Montilli |   |  |
|  | Dan Pierpont | X |  |
|  | Tom Gulik | X |  |

Funch called meeting to order at 7:02

**VOTE:** To approve 20 May 2025 minutes

Motion made by McKinley, seconded by Pierpont. Approved by unanimous vote.

**VOTE (SIGN):** Reimbursement to Funch from Gift Fund for tool and equipment maintenance of $22.95 (oil and filters (2) for DR brush mower) and $29.97 (spark plugs for Stihl backpack blower, Stihl brush cutter, and Stihl hedge trimmer).

**VOTE:** To pay the GrotonFest Fall non-profit fee of $100. Reimbursement to Funch will occur after the invoice is received and paid.

Motion made by Legge, seconded by Lynch. Approved by unanimous vote.

**REPORTS**

Nashua Riverwalk Trail Educational Signage

Funch had Zoom with major stakeholders at DCR on June 9.

Agreed upon the following plan:

* + - 1. Detailed designs completed and approved by 1st week in July.
			2. Signs, curbing, accessible table, and landscape work ordered mid-July.
			3. Landscape work, installation of signs, table, and curbing performed in September.
			4. Grand Opening Celebration in early October.

DCR Interpretive Services approved the first sign on June 16; its format will be used for all the other signs, so this is a major milestone. Text for all signs has been approved. Working on getting photos and captions approved for remaining signs.

Paquawket Path Easement

We are waiting for the Conservation Commission to write letters to abutters.

Greenway’s Nashua River Festival June 8

Supported by Tom M., Tom G., Rich, Dan, Jim, Bob, Kiirja

Well attended event in general, but very light interest in information booths compared to hands-on activities and demonstrations.

Trail Maintenance

Still Meadow, Sawtell, and Groton Hills were mowed.

Chainsawed trees in Longley II and Hayes.

Re-routed loop trail and bench cut a section of the trail in Casella Preserve.

Cleared trail in Marsh-Lewis Grove.

Trimmed back trailheads (3) in Longley II.

Cut branches overhanging the rail trail and equestrian path on NRRT.

Discussion was held on help offered by Baystate Trail Riders to maintain trails, and in particular bridges, for horse use.

The rail trail meeting tomorrow morning will discuss widening of NRRT for horse use from Groton to Ayer.

National Trails Day, June 7th

Paananen led a hike in Williams Barn area.

Scavenger Hunt

 Planning continued with Virginia Wood.

Tom is assisting with integrating the game into our website.

Website development

Parcel descriptions being updated.

Photos of each parcel are being collected.

Soft launch on July 1st .

GCT’s Carter’s Folly

Trails were gps’ed. Connects to NEFF’s Baddacook Woods parcel and GCT’s Skitapet parcel.

A very nice loop trail exists but it goes over private property. If an easement cannot be obtained, it would be feasible to create a trail that avoids private property. The trails in the Baddacook Woods parcel that remained after the last tree harvest have largely grown over. Potential access points on Allen’s Trail and off Lost Lake Dr. would need to be approved by NEFF. Also, a loop trail or two would need to be approved by NEFF as well.

Marsh Family parcels

Parcels on the south side of Raddin Rd. are owned by the Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife as of June 4. This opens new public trails from Raddin Rd. to, and along, the New England Power Lines.

West Groton Rail Trail Committee

Continuing to hold out some hope that the Genesee and Wyoming Railroad will agree to give up their rights to the tracks from Ayer to W. Groton. Right now, they believe they may need to store “spare” railroad cars on the tracks at some time in the future. But that will require potentially expensive repairs to the bridge over the Nashua River.

**DISCUSSIONS**

Reorganization of Committee for FY26

**VOTE**: To approve existing slate of officers for FY26. Approved by unanimous vote.

Upcoming Projects

Shattuck Well Trail (Water Dept. land parallel to Schoolhouse Rd.) - Trail needs to be re-routed to avoid using a private driveway. Project being held on Friday at 10:00 am.

NRRT – Cutting back overhanging branches from 0.5 mi south of Sand Hill to Broadmeadow will continue June 18.

Stoddart Trail – Additional geo-grid and gravel sections are being installed this week.

Several new parcels need to be assessed for creating new or deprecating old trails. The trails need to be approved by the Conservation Commission and GPS tracks need to be collected. The trails then need to be marked and trailhead posts need to be installed. Parcels include Jack and Mary Allen CA, C.L. Bennett Family CA, Patricia Hallet CA, Noonan Land, and Marsh-Lewis Grove.

Maintenance Work

One or more people: There are many trails needing to be trimmed back with hedge trimmers and trimmed overhead with loppers or pole chainsaws.

Two or more people: There are several bridges that need to be made “slip proof” with geo-textile fabric and pea stone. There are many trailhead posts that need to be replaced.

Paul will post a list of trailheads that need post replacements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTE:** Motion to adjourn was made by McKinley and seconded by Peregoy. Passed by unanimous vote at 8:44 PM.