



TOWN OF GROTON

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Groton Trails Vision Committee

**** Monthly Meeting Minutes ****

14 October 2013

Attendees:

Chairman	Paul Funch	X
Members:	Russell Burke	X
	Gineane Haberlin	
	Nadia Madden (Recorder)	X
	Michael Roberts	X
	Alan Taylor	
	Edward Wenzell	X

Visitors:

Michelle Collette

Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman Funch called the meeting to order with the above Committee members present.

Reports

- a) **Commonwealth Connections:** Burke noted that this was the previous version of the Commonwealth's Trails Vision and that familiarity with it could help with developing the Groton Trails Vision. Burke offered to bring some large-scale maps that the Planning Board has developed for its Master Plan that could aid the Committee in its analyses. Madden noted that it would be helpful to have regional trail maps to aid with making connections to neighboring towns. Funch noted that there are OpenStreetMap maps of the region that show a lot of trails in most towns. Funch also noted that we have some connections to Westford, Ayer, Dunstable, and Pepperell, but not many and they are not well developed.
- b) **Themes for Report:** Roberts offered to develop themes/templates for the report for the next meeting.
- c) **West Groton Sidewalks Build-out:** Madden offered to research marketing ideas and possibilities of low-hanging fruit for sidewalk expansion in W. Groton
- d) **Old County Road:** Collette noted that the right-of-way may still exist on this old cart road.
- e) **Funch's Summary of Potential Projects:** Funch presented ideas for:
 - West Groton sidewalk/pathway to Senior Center. Idea was raised to include benches.
 - MBTA right-of-way conversion to rail trail from W. Groton center to Groton-Shirley Road in Ayer.
 - Continuation of sidewalk from Old Ayer Rd. to Skyfield Dr. or Johnson's
 - Connection from Partridgeberry to Nashua River Rail Trail and West St. Collette noted that there may be an easement on a parcel used for a sewer line to Partridgeberry.
 - Nashua River Rail Trail to Middle School connection. Other possible connections to NRRT were discussed including the Honeywell Property off Arlington St. at Rte. 119, the Baptist Church on Rte. 119, or through the apartment complex on Winthrop Pl. next to the Baptist Church.
 - Old County Rd. from Shirley Rd./Pepperell Rd. junction to Pepperell (Lakin St.) or Groton

(Arbor Way or Cherry Tree Ln.)

- f) **Other Ideas:** Putting portable toilets and more benches along the NRRT.

Discussions

a) Review of Trails Vision Statement

- Change “Pathways” to “ways”
- Add economic development more explicitly
- Include the role of respect

b) Review of Trails Mission Statement

- Add time scales of short, medium, and long-term

Action Items

- Nadia will edit Vision Statement, put together a straw man for the introduction, and set up when is good to reschedule the Veterans Day meeting.
- Russ will comb through the Master Plan for large images, and get a large-scale trails map
- Mike will draft themes for the report

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:00 p.m.