

**Gilmanton Conservation Commission
Trails Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
4/04/2023 @6:00pm Old Town Hall GIW**

Approved 5/4/23

Present: Thomie Dombrowski, Rich Maher, Rob Baldwin, Lori Baldwin, Chris Schlegel, Frank Allen, Derek Colquhoun, Gary Ambelas, Fuzz Freese, Dan Tinkham.

Approve March Minutes

Thomie moves to approve minutes. Rob seconded. Minutes approved.

Action Item Updates: Lori will contact Gilmanton FD about brush at Cogswell summit.

Lori: Trails email. The Town will generate an email address for our group to field inquiries from the public.

Rob reported that he, Thomie & Rich will attend the NH-RTP grant workshop on May 17th.

Gary Ambelas accepted Rich Maher's gift to dedicate a bench to Tom Howe and place it at the Cogswell Summit.

2023 Projects / Where to begin? The group discussed and the consensus was that we'll finish Cogswell and then move to Jones Farm. The Howe Kiosk is to be completed before the Flax Day event on 7/29

Update on Earth Day event: Attendees/Tasks

Media update: Lori created an event on FB to promote our volunteer drive and to support the Energy Committee event. Will update with more photos and info to keep people engaged to attend the event.

Helpers: Chris, Rob, Lori, Frank, Thomie and Rich. Possibly Derek & Eric

- **Maps** Thomie to bring
- **Volunteer & Liability Release Forms:** Rob & Lori will have these ready.
- **Document the event:** Frank to bring pictures and to bring drone/get footage of the event. Several of us should take photos and share them out to at the end of the day.
- **Guided hike to Beaver Loop Trail /Take shifts**
- Chris was on trail and suggested a need for some cleanup ahead of the event.
- **Trail Prep/Trail Cleanup scheduled for April 16 (Sunday) 10AM**

Group Name & Logo considerations: Rob made a sample volunteer form with a possible logo & group name. Discussion for name & logo: GRiTT-Gilmanton Rec. Trail Tenders was suggested by Rob. Group adopted GRiTT so it will be our official group name.

- Thoughts on GRiTT

- Frank – no need for a reason for the ‘i’
- Use a tree or other relevant symbol for the i
- Fuzz: Put a pick with shovel – not two shovels

6:30 Welcome BRATTS/Dan Tinkham:

- Lori welcomes Dan
 - Lori presents vision of GRiTT to Dan
 - Individual ‘adopts’ and spends 2x/year addressing annual maintenance (water bars, cleanup, simple maintenance) on a given trail
 - Adopter calls out larger projects to the BRATT group that will mobilize group to address issue.
 - Primary objective in most cases is to keep water off the trails
 - Waterbar maintenance annually is critical.
 - Thoughts on a group like ours starting out?
 - Get the word out
 - Signage (‘under construction’)
 - Identify people to take care of tools
 - Chainsaw training
 - Also a problem with BRATTS – got to have the 8 hour training certificate
 - Fuzz: attend a BRATTS trails workday to get a good feel for the process
 - Dan: could probably get BRATT volunteers to provide a training session for GRiTT
 - Strategies for volunteers:
 - Schedule work days & post on trail kiosk & FB
 - Laconia Sun, Facebook, Group email to registered volunteers
 - **Maps:** be sure to get permission from landowners before publishing any maps
 - Dan: It is important to try to track time. Used to assess need & generate annual report
 - Liability release/waiver form for volunteers
 - Once a season release
 - Renewed every year
 - Recognize use of dangerous tools/train
 - Chris: For volunteering, can we list the variety of things that a layperson could do. Document low skill work that volunteer could do. No experience necessary.
- ‘Just bring gloves and lunch.’**

BRATTS has a workday calendar for trail maintenance/building events.

Post notices about trail maintenance days at the trail heads.

Group offered their thanks to Dan and meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

