

# Groton Greenway Committee

June 15, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Location: Nashua River Watershed Association, Main Street, Groton, MA  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Note taker: Fran Stanley  
Members Present: Stacey Chilcoat, David Pitkin, Fran Stanley, Marion Stoddart  
Members Absent: Bill Gavazzi, David Manugian  
Other Attendees: Bruce Easom, Groton Trails Committee

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Agenda distributed.

## Trail Committee Request

Bruce Easom, representing the Groton Trails Committee presented a request that the Groton Greenway Committee (GGC) send a letter of support to selectmen in favor of the Trails Committee proposal.

Bruce Easom described the timeline of public actions since 2000 that preceded this Groton Trails Committee request. The Trails Committee wants public trail access from Fitch's Bridge to the Farmers and Mechanics property along the Nashua River. The Trails Committee believes that the public has a right to pass through the land that connects these two points as Jenkins Road used to run along the proposed path. The current landowner disagrees with the Trail Committee's contention. The current landowner has blocked off the trail and does not allow the public to pass. Neither will the current landowner allow the Town of Groton onto the property to survey the land. After years of correspondence, the current landowner indicated through his lawyer in March 2010 that he is not interested in further discussions regarding public access across his property.

After Bruce Easom's presentation, the members of the GGC discussed the merits of the Trail Committee's proposal. All GGC members expressed their support of the Trail Committee's initiative. Stacey Chilcoat made a motion that the GGC write a letter in support of the Trail Committee's proposal. David Pitkin seconded the motion. The motion passed with all four members present voting affirmatively.

Next, David Pitkin made a motion to appoint Fran Stanley to draft and send the GGC's letter of support. Stacey Chilcoat seconded this motion. The motion passed with all four members present voting affirmatively.

## Past Minutes

Proposed meeting minutes from the GGC's August 24, 2009 and February 9, 2010 meetings were distributed for the committee's review. Stacey Chilcoat moved to approve both sets of minutes as written. David Pitkin seconded this motion. Marion Stoddart and Stacey Chilcoat voted to approve the minutes and there were two abstentions made by Fran Stanley and David Pitkin respectively.

Marion Stoddart distributed a copy of the GGC's 2009 Annual Report to Selectmen.

Stacey Chilcoat spoke to the committee regarding previous educational activities. In the past, GGC has sponsored river festivals. At times, as many as one thousand people were in attendance.

Marion Stoddart told the committee about the older film Completing the Vision that has been used to educate riverfront property owners about the history of the Nashua River and the importance of creating a greenway buffer zone along the water's edge. Luke Moisson has provided his technical assistance by digitizing the film. Stacey Chilcoat and Luke Moisson will continue their efforts and work to get the audio tracks synchronized with the visuals. David Pitkin offered his technical perspective with his observation that it might be best to upload the file to a web service like Vimeo and have the creation of film DVDs be a secondary consideration. See [www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com).

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## Goals for Committee

Committee members started a discussion of its goals for 2010. Members expressed a need for the creation of a list showing the remaining river frontage properties lacking greenway protections.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Sent letter to Selectmen in support of Trails Committee access request	Fran Stanley	ASAP
Take minutes	Fran Stanley	none
Update and distribute committee contact information	Fran Stanley	none

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, September 2, 2010 7 p.m. at Nashua River Watershed Association