

Groton Greenway Committee

September 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Location: Nashua River Watershed Association, Main Street, Groton, MA
Time: 7:00 PM
Note taker: Fran Stanley
Members Present: Stacey Chilcoat, David Manugian, David Pitkin, Fran Stanley, Marion Stoddart
Members Absent: Bill Gavazzi
Other Attendees: none

A copy of the June 24, 2010 letter to the Groton Selectmen from Groton Greenway Committee was distributed to the committee members.

Past Minutes

June 15, 2010 draft meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed by the committee members. Marion Stoddart moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Stacey Chilcoat seconded this motion. Marion Stoddart, Stacey Chilcoat, Fran Stanley and David Pitkin voted to approve the minutes.

Jenkins Road Access

Marion Stoddart updated the committee on the most recent information regarding the Jenkins Road litigation. Selectmen learned that a summary judgment action for this case may cost the town between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The Selectmen asked the Conservation Commission to contribute \$10,000. The Conservation Commission agreed.

[David Manugian entered the meeting.]

Fitch's Bridge CPC Grant

David Manugian shared his decision to move to close out the CPC grant. The grant monies have been used to consider the cost of repair; however, the remaining grant monies will not be sufficient to complete the design for the needed repairs. Using private funding, bridge repairs are projected to cost \$800,000. Using public funding, the repairs would cost as much as \$2 million.

David laid out the following budget figures:

- \$60,000 Original grant
- \$40,000 spent on a stand-alone report
- \$20,000 remains unspent
- \$90,000 new estimate of design costs

David Manugian proposes to close out the CPC grant and return the unspent monies to the town. He asked for the support of the Groton Greenway Committee in holding a public meeting or hearing to share a progress report on this project. Marion Stoddart suggested that a public update might be made during the Comprehensive Master Plan presentation on Tuesday, November 16, 2010.

Stacey Chilcoat made a motion directing David Manugian to prepare and submit a Preliminary Design Report and work to close out the grant with an intention to return the remaining \$20,000. David Pitkin seconded this motion and motion passed unanimously.

Robert DeCilio Land (366 and 398 West Main Street, Groton)

Marion Stoddart updated the committee on a recent meeting held between Pat and Bob DeCilio, son Chris DeCilio, Marion Stoddart and Ann Gagnon from the Commonwealth's division of Fish and Wildlife. Ann Gagnon was excited about the property but the Commonwealth does not want the building. Ann recommended that the owners sell the house lot separately.

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Marion reviewed the other private individuals who may want to buy some portion of the DeCilio's property. Crystal Johnson may want to buy the nursery business and the land with the greenhouse buildings. Diane Carson may want to buy the 1 acre portion of land presently leased by Nashoba Paddlers.

David Manugian knows the DeCilio family and is familiar with their property. He asserts that there may be two or three house lots upland that might pass Title IV and thus be buildable.

Committee Organizational Concerns:

Elect Officers

After some discussion, Stacey Chilcoat nominated Marion Stoddart as Chairperson. David Pitkin seconded the motion and all committee members voted in favor of the motion. Further, David Pitkin nominated Fran Stanley as Secretary. Stacey Chilcoat seconded the motion and all committee members voted in favor of the motion.

Committee Size and Composition

Marion Stoddart identified Carol Coutrier as a person with marketing skills who might be interested in joining the Groton Greenway Committee. Committee members agreed that marketing skills would be a welcome addition to the committee. David Pitkin put forward Carol Greenfield's name as another possible new committee member.

Bill Gavazzi's lack of attendance at Groton Greenway Committee meetings was discussed. Fran Stanley was directed to write a draft letter to Bill Gavazzi that would raise committee members' concerns and inquire about his intention to participate in future Groton Greenway Committee activities.

Completing the Vision Film Update

Stacey Chilcoat reported that Luke Moisson will be gathering the highest quality, i.e. highest definition master ready to be uploaded.

Goals for Committee

The committee members continued their discussion of 2010 goals and produced the following set of priorities:

1. Protection of the Greenway which requires the creation of a list to identify the remaining river frontage properties lacking greenway protections.
2. Promote the enjoyment of the natural resources of the rivers and adjacent greenway properties.
3. Inform and educate the public.
4. Restoration of Fitch's Bridge.
5. Protection of all tributaries to Nashua and Squannacook Rivers.

Action items

Investigate appointment of associate members
Draft letter to Bill Gavazzi
Update and distribute committee contact information
Invite NRWA AmeriCorps staff to next meeting

Person responsible

Marion Stoddart
Fran Stanley
Fran Stanley
Marion Stoddart/Stacey Chilcoat

Deadline

none
next meeting
next meeting
by next meeting

Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 18, 2010 7 p.m. at Nashua River Watershed Association