

# Groton Greenway Committee

November 22, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Location: Nashua River Watershed Association, 592 Main Street, Groton, MA  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Note taker: Fran Stanley  
Members Present: Stacey Chilcoat, Carol Coutrier, David Pitkin, Fran Stanley, Marion Stoddart  
Members Absent: Bill Gavazzi, David Manugian  
Other Attendees: Peter Carson (Nashoba Paddlers)

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## Minutes

October 21, 2010 draft minutes were reviewed. David Pitkin moved to accept the minutes as received. Carol Coutrier seconded that motion. All present voted in favor to accept the minutes. Fran Stanley will arrange to have approved committee minutes posted on the Town of Groton's website.

## Warrant Articles 25 & 26

Marion Stoddart updated the group regarding the passage of both warrant articles that the Groton Greenway Committee supported at town meeting.

## DeCilio Property

Committee members discussed the fact that the DeCilio parcels have two potential buyers who would employ conservation protections-- the Commonwealth Department of Fish and Game (formerly referred to as Fish and Wildlife) and the Groton Conservation Commission.

It appears that Peter and Diane Carson will purchase a little more than one half acre in the form of a condominium for the use of the Nashoba Paddlers business.

[Stacey Chilcoat entered the meeting at this point.]

## Completing the Vision

Committee members discussed ways to make use of this sixteen year old film. Marion noted that 15 miles of the Nashua River are located in Lancaster including portions of the North Branch, the South Branch and the main stem of the river. It was agreed that Marion Stoddart will share a copy of Completing the Vision with the Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River. The group observed that although the theme of river protection as discussed in the film is universal, the focus of the work is clearly upon Groton's efforts to preserve the Nashua River.

[Stacey Chilcoat left the meeting at this point.]

## River Festival

Peter Carson of Nashoba Paddlers presented his thoughts regarding the necessary elements for organizing a river festival. In the past, the Groton trust funds have supported the festival, contributing about \$2,000 or approximately half the amount required to fund the festival. Thus, the timing of a funding application to the Groton trust funds is an important consideration. Also, Peter suggests that a minimum of twelve committed volunteers are needed. Music and art have always been important elements to past river festivals.

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Certain elements of the river festival are predictable and fixed. The date will be in June. The festival location will be at the Nashoba Paddlers put in at 398 West Main Street. Nashoba Paddlers will donate the use of its canoes for this event. Past organizers of the river festival, including Stacey Chilcoat and Peter Carson, appreciated the fact that festival attendees were never charged entrance fees and any food sold benefited local scout troops. In the past, festival attendees always responded generously to non mandatory requests for donations to help fund the event.

## Forest Stewardship Update

David Pitkin and Marion Stoddart met with Kara Sanford and Al Futterman regarding efforts to update a 20 year old landowner's index for use in identifying candidates for conservation protection. David Pitkin's facility with manipulating electronic data pulled from public records (such as the Groton Assessor's database) will be an asset to this project.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Get minutes posted on town website	Fran Stanley	n/a
Inquire about getting Completing the Vision on town website	Fran Stanley	n/a

## Next Meetings

The committee will try to meet on the second Monday of each month starting in January, 2011.

Monday, January 10, 2010 7 p.m. at Nashua River Watershed Assoc., 592 Main Street, Groton

Tentative Agenda for January's meeting:

1. Updated Landowner's Index
2. DeCilio Property
3. River Festival Volunteers
4. Completing the Vision
5. Fitch's Bridge Update
6. Comprehensive Master Plan Update