

# Groton Greenway Committee

April 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes

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

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## Meetings/Minutes

Draft minutes for and November 22, 2010 were reviewed. David Pitkin moved to accept the March 14, 2011 minutes as received. Carol Coutrier seconded that motion. All present voted in favor but for one abstention by David Pitkin. David Pitkin moved to accept the March 14, 2011 minutes as received. Carol Coutrier seconded that motion. All present voted in favor to accept the minutes.

Fran Stanley reported that the first meeting minutes have been uploaded to the Town of Groton website. More documents and links will be added including a link to [Completing the Vision](#) and the Friends of Fitch's Bridge project report.

Marion Stoddart shared a question she received recently from Town Hall wondering if this committee intended to file an annual report to be included as a section of the Town's larger annual report which is distributed at Spring Town Meeting. Fran Stanley received an earlier communication from Town Hall concerning this matter and did not respond to the inquiry. After some discussion, committee members decided to forgo a report for this year and intend to submit a report for next year in a timely fashion.

The Groton Greenway Committee reviewed the warrant articles proposed for the April 25, 2011 Spring Town Meeting. Carol Coutrier made a motion to have the Groton Greenway Committee support Warrant Article 15, CPC Proposal B, which is the Conservation Commission's request for \$75,000 in funding from the Community Preservation Committee. Marion Stoddart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The group agreed that Fran Stanley and Marion Stoddart would prepare a letter of support addressed to the Selectmen which could also be read at Spring Town Meeting as a statement of support for the warrant article. A copy of the letter to the Selectmen will be submitted to the Town Moderator in order to apprise him of the Groton Greenway Committee's position and intention to speak on the matter at the Spring Town Meeting.

## Former Town Dump Parcel on Nod Road

Marion Stoddart raised the topic of finding a higher use for the Town owned parcel on Nod Road that used to serve as the town dump. The town no longer dumps its garbage and the Nod Road parcel (2 to 3 acres) was remediated several decades ago. Marion noted that some heavily toxic sites have been remediated to an extent that playgrounds and parks have been installed in their stead.

The Harry Rich State Forest is nearby, as is the Petapawag Boat Launch. There is a pumping station in the area. In the past, this parcel has been considered for a park, school site, business and waste water treatment plant. All members present expressed interest in finding or creating a better use for this parcel. David Pitkin stated that CPC monies might be sought for use in a clean-up.

The group discussed lingering concerns that the remediation efforts undertaken by the Town did not fully address all the hazardous materials that were present on site. As with any parcel close to the Nashua River, it is believed that there is some seepage or runoff into the river. Nashua River Watershed Association conducts water testing and its resulting data is accepted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The committee agreed to revisit the subject in future meetings.

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## Friends of Fitch's Bridge Subcommittee

Selectmen have asked to meet with the Groton Greenway Committee to discuss recent CPC project closeout letter dated March 29, 2011 and Groton Greenway Committee's March 30, 2011 letter to the Selectmen. The first Selectmen's meeting after Spring Town Meeting may be May 9 since the Spring Town Meeting is apt to run for two consecutive Mondays due to the large number of warrant articles requiring attention from the voters.

David Manugian, our committee member with the most knowledge of the Fitch's Bridge project, will be available to answer the Selectmen's questions at the meeting. The Groton Greenway Committee agreed to call a public meeting for the same evening and time in order to support David Manugian in his appearance. The Groton Greenway Committee will attempt to reserve meeting space in Town Hall other than the Selectmen's first floor meeting room so that other greenway business can be addressed on the same evening.

## Membership of the Groton Greenway Committee

Marion Stoddart reported that the Groton Greenway Committee will be permitted to drop its membership total to five members and may operate with a three person quorum. Marion stated that Town Manager Mark Haddad asked for this committee to submit a letter asking for the Selectmen to allow this change. Fran Stanley will draft letter with the assistance of Marion Stoddart and perhaps also Carol Coutrier.

## DeCilio Property

Groton Greenway Committee continues to anticipate a possible real estate closing in the near future by Nashoba Paddlers for its condo purchase of a portion of DeCilio's property.

## Groton Fairgrounds

Group reviewed recent community interest in conditions of the Groton Fairgrounds as evidenced by Parks Commission site walk on April 9, 2011. The committee will follow the progress of the Parks Commission appointed subcommittee. In the group's discussion, it was observed that most of the former Farmers and Mechanics parcels are beyond the 300 foot buffer for the benefit of waterways that is the usual ambit of attention for a greenway committee.

As an important approach to the Nashua River, the Groton Greenway Committee is interested in continued public access to trails near the Nashua River that originate at the Groton Fairgrounds. In addition, this committee is generally in favor of proper manure management to avoid the environmental degradation that can result from runoff containing excessive nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria and pathogens.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Draft letter to the Selectmen	Fran S., Marion S., Carol C.	5/9
Draft letter of Support for Warrant Article	Fran S., Marion S.	4/25
Add Town website links to <u>Completing the Vision</u> ; Friends of Fitch's Bridge Report	Fran S.	n/a

## Next Meetings

The committee will continue to meet on the second Monday of each month. Traditionally, the committee has not met during July and August.