

Groton Greenway Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: August 27, 2012
Location: Town Hall, Town Manager's Office, 2nd Floor, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Members Present: Carol Coutrier, Fran Stanley, Marion Stoddart
Other Attendees: Mark Haddad (Town Manager), David Manugian, Tom Delaney (DPW Head)

David Manugian summarized progress to date on Fitch's Bridge and explained how the Greenway Committee wanted Town Manager's advice on warrant scheduling and how projected bridge replacement costs fit within the broader Town budget. The group discussed possibility of Town saving some money in financing costs if it bonds the bridge replacement at the same time as the new central fire station project. The Town has budgeted and essentially set aside about \$500,000 in estimated debt service costs. Currently, no override is needed should Town Meeting voters decide to spend the money to replace Fitch's Bridge.

The group discussed the possibility of asking voters at Town Meeting in October 2012 to fund engineering costs which would hopefully allow time for the project to be designed, engineered and put out to bid during the fall. The expectation would be that the Town would have bids in hand when coming back to Special Town Meeting in January 2013. Engineering costs do not need follow the most complex and time consuming procurement law standards. Conceivably, there would be one contractor to supply the replacement bridge and another contractor to perform the actual on site construction work. Design build firms were discussed as an option. Other costs such as permitting, insurance and bridge documentation were contemplated.

Presently, the uneven dirt road leading up to the bridge helps to deter mischievous visitors. One approach to the bridge (West Groton side) may need to be regraded in order to bring a large crane on site.

David Manugian will consult with several bridge contractors and see if they could work within the time lines discussed in this meeting. David Manugian will stay in contact with Town Manager to ensure that the October warrant article and description properly captures the needed work.

Greenway Committee members plan to attend the Selectmen's upcoming meeting to discuss October warrant articles. Fran Stanley will post the public meeting notice.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m. Minutes by Fran Stanley.