

Groton Greenway Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: October 4, 2012
Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor Small Conference Room, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Members Present: Carol Coutrier, Fran Stanley, Marion Stoddart, Adam Burnett, David Pitkin
Other Attendees: David Manugian

Carol Coutrier said that safety of the most compelling case for replacing the bridge. Adam said that from a 2012 perspective there has been a lot of deterioration since the 2006 engineering assessment. A change will be made to the Fitch's Bridge FAQ to show that increased costs are expected if bridge components break and drop in the Nashua River.

Marion Stoddart passed on Wendy Good's question of how to bond \$750,000 without fire station borrowing. David Pitkin and Adam Burnett have taken on outreach to abutters of the bridge. Fran Stanley will ask police department about the number of nuisance calls to the bridge. Rail trail usage figures will be gathered to compare for possible estimated usage of new Fitch's Bridge.

Greenway will get chance to meet with Board of Selectmen and Trails Committee separately both meetings occurring at 6 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2012. Greenway members and David Manugian will divide up to provide representation and coverage to both meetings.

Maintenance of new bridge will be assumed by DPW and David Manugian estimated those costs at \$500 to \$1,000 per year. Perhaps private fundraising could be directed to fund future maintenance.

The early Town/DEP money spent on bridge estimated at around \$15,000. David Manugian will present warrant article at Town Meeting. Pictures will be used and main elements discussed will be (1) master plan support, (2) deteriorated bridge is a public safety concern, (3) recessionary environment depresses construction costs, (4) low interest rates means this is a good time to borrow, and (5) great, safe trail connection.

Next meeting planned for Town Meeting on October 15, 2012. November 8, 2012 river festival volunteers meeting planned.

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