

Groton Greenway Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: November 1, 2012
Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Members Present: Carol Coutrier, Fran Stanley, Marion Stoddart, Adam Burnett
Other Attendees: Mark Haddad (Town Manager), Jack Petropoulos (Selectman), David Manugian

Selectmen's introduction of the warrant article for Fitch's Bridge will include changed language or amendment to show that engineering effort will include separate break out of old bridge demolition and stabilization of the stone abutments. If townspeople do not want to remove and replace at the same time – lowest total cost – then they may act to appropriate necessary funds to remove the deteriorated old bridge. Removal of old bridge would remove hazard presented by the attractive nuisance aspect of people who like to explore the old bridge and jump off of it into the river. The Town would also spend less money removing the bridge now than it would be apt to spend if the bridge deteriorates further so that quick lift with a crane is no longer a possibility.

Total compression of many years may have helped the abutments to maintain. However, engineers should check for scouring of abutments, especially any scouring that may have occurred prior to the damming of the river in Pepperell (which resulted in slower water velocity).

David Manugian asked whether January Town Meeting voters could be asked to replace and then, absent approval to replace, Spring Town Meeting voters could be asked to remove. The idea sounded reasonable to the committee. This idea will be discussed further with other interested stakeholders. A later demolition and stabilization would be a small enough total cost so that Town would not (or may not) have to bond the costs. Carol Coutrier asked what would happen if the January Special Town Meeting voters voted down the fire station appropriation but passed the Fitch's Bridge appropriation. Haddad answered that the Town would look to bond that smaller amount if it needs to fund the appropriation. Committee agreed to present about one minute of web videos showing unsafe use of bridge by trespassing youth at Town Meeting.

November 8, 2012 river festival planning meeting for volunteers planned.

Fran Stanley moved to spend up to \$150.00 from the Greenway's river festival gift account on river festival planning meeting on November 8, 2012. Carol Coutrier seconded, motion carried 4:0 with David Pitkin not voting due to absence.

Adam Burnett moved to reduce warrant article requested amount to \$95,000 based on a review the FST engineering bid in hand which quotes a total cost below \$95,000. Carol Coutrier seconded, motion carried 4:0 with David Pitkin not voting due to absence.

Carol Coutrier moved to adjourn at 8:45 a.m. Adam Burnett seconded and motion carried 4:0 with David Pitkin not voting due to absence.

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