

Groton Greenway Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: November 26, 2012
Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor Kitchen, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA
Time: 7 p.m.
Members Present: Carol Coutrier, Fran Stanley (arrived late), Marion Stoddart, Adam Burnett, David Pitkin
Other Attendees: David Manugian, Jack Petropoulos (Selectman), Pierre Comtois (Nashoba Publishing)

David Manugian led the meeting but for input from chair Marion Stoddart on approval of November 16th minutes. David M. will inquire with Town Manager about appointing separate Fitch's Bridge Committee, but the work can continue since all Greenway members are satisfied with David Manugian's leadership on this matter despite the fact that he is no longer a member of Groton Greenway Committee.

David Manugian estimated that the engineering consultant, FST, may have its initial cost estimates in the second week of December. FST will attend the December 18 meeting and can speak to important technical questions such as explaining why the Town should stabilize abutments after removing the current bridge.

Adam Burnett reported on a conversation with Ray Ciemney regarding salvage and re-use of decorative bridge materials. According to Ray, the rosettes are less distinctive than the initial truss opening. If the construction crew can set aside this portion of the bridge, Ray will remove separate it with a blow torch. Then, he could fashion a decorative portal – similar concept to the FST design proposal but superior in that it re-uses a portion of the old bridge. Ray will not work on bridge while it is intact and in place over the river. David Manugian will take this generous proposal from Ray Ciemney under advisement to see it can be incorporated in the final construction contract. All Greenway members approved of the concept and expressed thanks to Ray Ciemney for his generous offer.

Here is a copy of the motion from November 3rd Town Meeting that secured the \$95,000 in engineering and design funds:

"MOTION: I move that the sum of \$95,000 be transferred from the Stabilization Fund for all professional design services, including surveying, engineering and permitting, related to the construction and/or removal of a new pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle (non-vehicular) bridge over the Nashua River at the location of the current Fitch's Bridge that will connect Fitch's Bridge Road and Pepperell Road."

The group discussed the warrant articles and how to plan the Fitch's Bridge presentation before Town Meeting. Jack Petropoulos suggested that the Greenway make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. David Manugian will communicate the group's consensus opinion that is recommends a single presentation at Town Meeting with whatever number of articles would be required so long as Town Meeting voters get a chance to decide both matters – replacement and/or demolition and stabilization in a single Town Meeting.

The cost of the replacement bridge may be the best determinate of the order of the warrant articles. David Pitkin explained that an incremental cost for replacement bridge might suggest putting vote for replacement second whereas an investment level of cost for the replacement bridge might suggest scheduling the replacement cost first.

Conversation turned to efforts by the Greenway to alert the public to the upcoming warrant articles and explain the benefits of replacing the bridge. Marion outlined her suggested public outreach. The group agreed that ideally there should be weekly outreach to the public in each of the 8 weeks before Town Meeting with informational articles, letters to the editor, editorials, postcards to Town residents, cable access shows, and electronic methods.

Outreach Schedule

Nov 25th - Week 1

Dec 2nd - Week 2 [Warrant Closes] [Special Information Submitted] + Community Event to promote Dec 18th

Dec 9th - Week 3 [Special Information - Why we are doing this Press Release] - NOI hearing with ConCom the 11th most likely

Dec 16th - Week 4 [Public Meeting]

Dec 23rd - Week 5

Dec 30- Week 6

Jan 6th - Week 7 [Ask for Editorial's Groton Heald's, Landmark, Groton Line]

Jan 13th - Week 8

Jan 26th - Week 9 [Town Meeting Vote]

Article Ideas

Al) Talk about Groton (Marion)

Al) Letter to the Editor (Jack)

Al) Talk with Paul F. article for the newspapers with map (David)

Al) Talk with Paul F. about trails budget

Al) Fran ask about Dec 18 meeting televised (Fran)

Al) Marion to contact the boards.

- 1) Trail Work, Trail Committee Friends [Paul Funch]
- 2) Map of the new trail connection
- 3) Planning Board to write a letter about
- 4) Conservation Commission Master Plan
- 5) Board of Trade
- 6) Ray Chimney's Designs

Dec 18, 2012 Public Meeting [Informational]

* Letting People know where it stands

* What the benefits are

** Invite Boards Trails Committee, Parks, Selectmen,

** Promote Business <Groton Board of Trade>

** Open Space and Recreation Plans <Planning Board>

** Construction Engineers at public meeting need to explain why the removal/stabilization is x% of replacement bridge.

NOI to Con Com submitted tomorrow Nov 26th

This will then be on the Dec 11th ConCom agenda, David Pitkin will be there.

Townwide Postcard (Design)

Postcard Title: Dedicated to a New Bridge and an Old Tradition

- Come to the Public Meeting December 18th and learn more
 - 7pm at Town Hall
- Vote for the Bridge on the 26th
 - 9AM at the Middle School
- Check us out on Facebook and Twitter
 - <http://www.facebook.com/FitchsBridge>
 - <https://twitter.com/fitchsbridge>

David Pitkin moved to approve the draft minutes from November 16, 2012. Carol Coutrier seconded and motion carried 5:0.

Upcoming meetings are: December 3, 2012 (attend Selectman's meeting),
December 10, 2012 (regular Greenway meeting),
December 18, 2012 (public meeting about Fitch's Bridge),
January 26, 2013 (8 a.m. meeting before Town Meeting).

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Minutes by Fran Stanley with help from David Pitkin.