

**Groton Greenway Committee**  
Meeting Minutes

Date: December 12, 2012  
Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor Kitchen, 173 Main Street, Groton, MA  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Members Present: David Pitkin, Fran Stanley, Marion Stoddart  
Other Attendees: Diane Carson, Celia Silinonte, Pete Carson, Russ Murray

---

Pete and Marion asked the gathering to brainstorm about what the river festival might hope to accomplish this year other than last year? The group will start planning two months earlier. Pete would still like to get 1 to 2 thousand Groton attendees. If we broaden outside of Groton, then we may not have space for everybody at Petapawag Place. We want the festival to remain free.

Peter suggests that a musical act who is family oriented would be a draw. Goals specific to this year's festival? Continue to concentrate on Groton suggests Marion. Lancaster tries for a broader draw and does get a crowd of 1,000.

Motorized boat rides would be nice, especially for people who are not confident of their abilities to use a canoe. A larger boat would be nice.

Children's Yoga with Ellen Olsen Brown was a great kick off.

Peter suggests that we look for an art coordinator.

Puppet act? Stacey Chilcoat knows who the artist is. Life sized puppets in Concord Mesquetoquig. The Concord river festival is a big event. Celia Silinonte's sister is very involved in arts in Concord area too.

Lawrence Academy's arts?

Water – remains an issue. Tom Orcutt at Groton Water Department . River Festival can inquire as to whether public water will be available.

Blackbird Café is Carol Coutrier's suggestion. Wellness Café. Filhio's. Main Street Café. Low cost, quality food, environmentally friendly, family friendly. Using a local business is also a value enumerated by the group. It was observed by David Pitkin that a group as small as 500 may not be a large enough group to support multiple food vendors. Even one food vendor is taking a bit of a risk since attendance can vary dramatically depending on the weather. Any vendor would gain positive publicity by associating with the event. This can be especially helpful for a local business.

Boy scouts? In 2012, it was too late in the year for a scout activity. Boy scouts cook at the fireman's muster. David Pitkin will investigate boy scout involvement. Russ will contact the people on his street who are very active in the boy scouts. Ask the firefighters to do it?

Fundraising and budget. Russ and David will look at leveling and budget.

Police: hire them earlier, hire two officers and don't close Nod Road.

What about MacGregor horse cart rides? Two different sites are a complexity.

Exhibitors: Marion Stoddart – give people more advanced notice. Trout unlimited. Fish and Game. Early January focus on this? Save the date. Peter Myrick. Michael Veit.

Peter said that the GDRSD audio visual guy will record the river festival this year.

December 12, 2012  
Page Two

Exhibitors? Historic use of the river.: re-enactment of the barge that went across? Follow up with Michael Roberts on the John Tinker past. John Tinker's trading post. Suggest building of trading post with Peter Benedict's help. Earl Carter? Could the Technical school help us build the trading post? (Kevin McKenzie). Fran will follow up with Michael Roberts regarding a replica trading post.

Bird watching on the river. Orienteering had been done in the past. Letterboxing?  
Goal- introducing people to the river? Organize exhibitors to that goal. Collecting aquatic insects. Teaching children to fish, clean and eat their catch.

Scavenger hunt was fun. Diane Carson bought a bunch of rubber ducks that might be used with this.

First Aid area? Could we get a nurse to volunteer? Could Chief Palma get emergency services out there?

Bus, porta potty and tent worked fine.

Brad Paul – Rounder Records experience. Will he be the music coordinator?

Music: Ask Bull Run for act referrals. Ask puppeteer for the same.

Next meeting date for river festival planning: Third week of January – Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes by Fran Stanley.