

Groton Greenway Committee  
Open Session minutes of July 15, 2013  
Town Hall

Chairman David Pitkin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Manager's Conference Room at Town Hall. Members David Pitkin, Marion Stoddart and Carol Coutrier were present, as well as Mark Haddad, town manager, and David Manugian.

Upon a motion by Marion Stoddart, seconded by David Pitkin, it was

VOTED: to approve Greenway Minutes of June 10, 2013, as drafted

The vote was unanimous.

Fitch's Bridge Grand Opening:

- Ribbon cutting on both sides
- Sunday, Sept. 15 date (corrected from Sat. date), 10Am-11AM
- Around 100 invitees
- Donohue and Harrington can make the 15<sup>th</sup> date.
- Tsongas attendance is pending.
- Additional suggested invitees: Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Trails Committee, CPA, Hargraves, Sayball, Jim Western, Stacy Chilicot.
- Proclamations from Harrington and Donohue will be requested.
- Indian Hill band
- Wiesner's children's chorus
- Refreshments will be served

Mark Haddad reported a surplus of \$20,000 from the bridge project. Equestrians will donate \$1000. A mat in the center of the bridge for horses is one use of money. Safety signage is needed.

A section of the road will be abandoned in the fall (Mark Haddad).  
David Manugian will provide a report on the bridge to submit to the town.  
Documentation of the bridge for high school students is finished (David Manugian).  
David Manugian will cut the rosettes for possible future use.

Peter Cunningham joined the group briefly.  
Adam Burnett joined the group.

River Festival Report

Attendance was good, but lower than last year. No food was an issue. Firefighters have been contacted about providing the food next year. Money is owed to Pete

Carson (tents) and Russ (water). All other invoices have been paid.  
Next year we would like to have a sign (banner?) for the Greenway table.  
There was a smaller core of people working on the festival this year.  
Sign up for various tasks for next year's festival will be done earlier.

Ann Lawrence, founder and president of the Littleton Horse Owners Association joined the group.

She shared an album with newspaper articles dating to the early 80's on saving Fitch's Bridge. Her group has raised over \$1000. for Groton Greenway Committee for facilitating horse safety of the new Fitch's Bridge, which may include providing matting (rubber tread material, 2 foot width) to eliminate slippage. Her group will perform a test situation with horses crossing the bridge to determine if additional money is needed for more "horse friendly" approaches to the bridge.

#### Fitch's Bridge Kiosk Proposal

Ray Ciemny joined the group and presented a design for a kiosk, an arched piece made of material from the bridge, including rivets, approximately 8' tall with a center piece for permanent message on history of the bridge, etc. Text will need to be written. Ray will submit a proposal with cost.

Marion mentioned the NRWA water chestnut pull and encouraged GGC members to participate. David will send a message to the volunteers.

A final note on the Fitch's Bridge Grand Opening: Marion will own the list of invitees. Speakers will include Jack Petropoulos, Nicki Tsongas (if possible), Donohue and Harrington.

Upon a motion by Carol Coutrier, seconded by Marion Stoddard, it was

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Coutrier, Secretary  
Groton Greenway Committee

