

Groton Greenway Committee
Open Session minutes of August 14, 2014
Town Hall

David Pitkin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the lunch room at Town Hall. Members Marion Stoddart, Adam Burnett, Craig Gemmell and Carol Coutrier were present.

Upon a motion by Carol Coutrier, seconded by Adam Burnett, it was

VOTED: to accept the amended minutes of the July 24, 2014 Groton Greenway meeting.

The vote was unanimous.

- I. Nod Road Update
 - A. Craig spoke with David Black and Mark Deuger and did some research.
 1. The aim is to develop a clear sense of what is known about the site and research town records.
 2. A site walk will be planned to help understand the current situation.
 - B. Adam connected with DPW and Michelle Collette. We have the specs but the plans for the proposed closing are gone. The dump was sealed in 1976.
 - C. Marion suggested water quality testing. Adam suggested baseline testing of the water.
 - D. Marion: Greenway is interested in protecting the land along the river and what uses are suitable for that property. Property should be used for recreational and conservation purposes. We need to understand who the stakeholders are.
 - E. Carol: What town body is responsible?
 - F. David: Board of Selectmen.
 - G. Marion: Conservation Commission considered the area as a place for ground nesting birds, but there was a concern about the safety of the area and the Conservation Commission did not have the funds to address it.
 - H. Adam: Concerns are PCB's, chlorinated products and by products.
 - I. Carol: Therefore, our job is to do research and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.
 - J. Marion: Dick Norstrom had Tom Delaney's job. He was operating the dump.
 - K. Adam and Craig will schedule a site visit.
 - L. Craig: Next step is a description and philosophical argument as to why to address this issue. He will do water testing with David Black (baseline test) against the norms of the area. Craig will also contact Mike Roberts regarding archeological issues. Marion suggested Roy Johnson as a resource person also.
 - M. Adam will look at the surface soil of the site.
- II. River Festival Budget Update
 - A. David still needs bills for the tents and porta potties.
- III. Groton Nursery

- A. David spoke with the new owners of the Groton Nursery. Marion mentioned that we need to tell them about the Greenway.
- IV. Fitch's Bridge Accommodation of Horses
 - A. David spoke with David Manugian and Judy Lorimer regarding the final dimensions for accommodations for horses on the bridge.
- V. Groton Greenway and Outreach to Other Towns
 - A. David will present to the Greenway Committee the land owners and parcels along the river.
 - B. Marion is interested in sharing with other towns such as:
 - Dunstable
 - Pepperell
 - Ayer
 - Harvard
 - Shirley
 - Bolton
 - Lancaster
 - Clinton
 - Leominster
 - Fitchburg
 - DevensMarion suggested we share the video with the landowners in Groton first. She also suggested we contact Al Fudderman and NRW Greenway for outreach to NRWA.
- VI. Planting of Butterfly Path
 - A. Marion reported that she and Alison walked Groton Place and the plan is to plant there in the spring. 400 plugs will be needed, 200 in each field.
 - B. Craig will get Groton School students to help.
 - C. Marion contacted Rick Muelhke who manages Groton Place.
 - D. We need to get a quote for the plugs and where Alison plans to get them.
 - E. Marion will contact the Groton Garden Club.
 - F. The planting can be done in one day.

Our next Greenway Committee meeting will be held on Sept. 18, 2014 at 7 PM.

Upon a motion by Adam Burnett, seconded by Marion Stoddart, it was

VOTED: to adjourn.

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Coutrier