

Groton Greenway Committee
Open Session minutes of September 25, 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 Craig Gemmell, seconded by Adam Burnett, it was

VOTED: to accept the amended minutes of the August 14, 2014 Groton Greenway meeting.

The vote was unanimous.

I. Nod Road Update

- A. Adam shared photos from the site visit made by Adam, Craig and David. Photos included open meadow and fast growing trees.
- B. They discovered a shallow surface cap and sandy loam. There was no run-off, all water was percolating. Adam shared that over time underlying materials may be exposed. Root systems are shallow, and the trees are exacerbating the situation.
- C. Marion: There was a tour of the area with the Conservation Commission several years ago, and a suggestion was made that the area could be used for ground nesting birds. State fish and wildlife is promoting having old grasslands converted to nesting areas.
- D. Craig: David Black can do water testing of samples and will go south of the land fill and other various spots.
- E. Adam: no run-off is visible from the site.
- F. Marion: Paper companies were dumping there.
- G. Adam: We need to reduce the amount of surface exposure.
- H. Marion: We need to make sure no contamination from the site is going into the river and find the best use for the site.
- I. David: We are not sure of the actual boundaries of the dump.
- J. Carol: A priority is to see if there is contamination going into the river.
- K. Carol: Perhaps this is another good spot for milkweed plugs.
- L. Craig and David Black will do simple water testing. Craig will work on the perceived boundaries with Groton School students. Craig suggested doing 4 overlays, topographic contouring, biological indicators and try to map the edge of the river. Adam suggested a dye test.

II. Milkweed Project

- A. Marion shared that we have permission from the N.E. Forestry Foundation to plant the milkweed pods on 2 fields. The planting will take occur at Groton Place in the Spring.
- B. David: We need a quote on the cost.

- C. Craig: Groton School greenhouse can be used to grow more plugs. He suggested that in order to protect ground nesting birds, no cutting occur until the first frost.
 - D. Marion: Cocoons spend the winter on the stem of the plants, so cut no more than 6".
- III. Priority Parcels
 - A. David emailed Greenway Committee members the spread sheet on owners along the river. We will look at large parcels that are not protected. We will make a list, including Groton Nursery and 2-3 other parcels along the Nashua and Squanacook Rivers.
 - B. Marion: Groton Nursery wants to develop the land near the road and wants the town to give them the old road bed. Groton Nursery wants to expand the nursery and cut trees by the river.
- IV. Trail Day, May, 2015
 - A. Nashoba Paddler has been asked to participate so we can do a blue trail. Diane Carson and offered to donate the canoes. Sign ups in advance are needed. Planning is needed with Pete and Diane and the Trails Committee. Marion will coordinate with them.
- V. Warrant for Mosquito Control
 - A. Marion shared that a meeting will be held with the Board of Health and mosquito control representatives. Members of our committee may want to attend that meeting.

Our next Greenway Committee meeting will be held on October 23, 2014 at 7 PM.

Upon a motion by Craig Gemmell, seconded by Adam Burnett, it was

VOTED: to adjourn.

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Coutrier