

Groton Greenway Committee
Open Session Minutes, Jan. 21, 2016
Small Conference Room, Town Hall

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

Dec. 3, 2015 minutes will be approved at the next Greenway Committee meeting.

I. Nod Road / Old Dump Site Update

- The following letter to be sent to the Board of Selectmen was reviewed.

. Dear Groton Board of Selectmen,

Your Groton Greenway Committee has for the past few years been preparing a recommendation on the highest and best use of the Nod Road or Old Dump parcel along the Nashua River south of the J. Harry Rich Forest. The history of the parcel and the closing of the old dump are far from documented to modern standards. We are left with some questions outstanding as to what activities might be permitted as well as the overall status of the containment of the materials that were deposited during the parcel's historic use as a town dump.

The Greenway Committee did extensive research on the history of the old dump and conducted some preliminary water sampling at the site. We are requesting the Board of Selectmen grant the Greenway Committee and its volunteers permission to do some additional ground based sampling at the site. The work would entirely be done with volunteer and donated efforts for this project and if there is any contamination found our work would stop immediately.

We believe it is in the best interest of the town to know what we have at the site and to fully understand if there is any impact on the health of the Nashua River which we have worked to protect for the past forty-five years.

Thank you,

The Groton Greenway Committee
Adam Burnett
Carol Coutrier
Matt McCracken
David Pitkin, Chair
Marion Stoddart

- David will speak with the selectmen regarding the letter and will invite them to a site walk . A GIS Plan will be included with the letter.
- Matt will speak with Stuart.

- Adam will send a summary of the history of the area.

II. 2015 Annual Report

Upon a motion by Carol Coutrier, Seconded by Marion Stoddart,

It was VOTED: To approve the following report as drafted.

The vote was unanimous.

The Groton Greenway Committee is an advisory committee created in 1989 to protect river and stream frontage in Groton, particularly along the Nashua and Squannacook Rivers for water quality, natural flood control, wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors and recreational trail connections. We seek to raise awareness, educate and invite townspeople to use and enjoy our rivers.

Groton Greenway Mission

- Continue to increase the protection of the Nashua and Squannacook Rivers
- Educate, raise awareness and invite townspeople to use and enjoy the river
- Promote usage and provide stewardship for the greenways

Activities During the Past Year

- Held the 2015 Nashua River Festival which included acts such as the Pebble Bottom River Kids, Native American dancing and the crowd favorite cardboard canoe races
- Participated in the annual spring water chestnut hand pull with the NRWA and Nashoba Paddler on the Nashua River
- Helped plant milkweed at NEFF property Groton Place to restore threatened Monarch butterfly habitat
- Wished past member Craig Gemmell luck in his new endeavors at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire
- Welcomed new member to the Greenway Committee, Matt McCracken

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Hold 2016 River Festival on June 19 at the Petapawag Boat Launch
- Continue dialog with landowners on protecting riverfront property
- Determine the best usage of funding to improve equestrian access at Fitch's Bridge
- Investigate management opportunities for the Nod Road parcel along the Nashua River

Respectfully,

The Groton Greenway Committee
Adam Burnett
Carol Coutrier
Matt McCracken
David Pitkin, Chair

Marion Stoddart

III. Groton Conservation Summit

- The Conservation Commission is organizing the Summit to be held at Lawrence Academy Media Center, on 2.3.16 at 7 PM. Each organization can speak 5 minutes, and Marion will speak for the Groton Greenway Committee on such issues as Nod Road Project, Milkweed Project, River Festival and Water Chestnut Pull.

IV. River Festival, 2016

- The new date is June 19, 2016.
- David will send out a survey for previous vendors, volunteers, performers.
- Marion has the list of exhibitors.

The next Groton Greenway Committee meeting will be held on March 3, 2016, at 7 PM

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

VOTED: to adjourn

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Coutrier