Groton Greenway Committee

Open Session Minutes, 1.27.22, 7:00 PM

 Zoom

Adam Burnett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. Members Carol Coutrier and Marina Khabituyeva, were present. Paul Funch of the Groton Trails Committee was guest.

1. Groton Trails Committee is applying for two grants to construct the Nashua Riverwalk accessible trail in the J. Harry Rich State Forest and requests letters of support.

Upon a motion by Carol, seconded by Marina, it was

VOTED: to write a letter of support for the Trails Committee’s application for two grants

to construct the Nashua River Riverwalk accessible trail in the J. Harry Rich State Forest.

The vote was unanimous.

1. Groton Greenway Committee 2021 Annual Report
2. Last year’s report was reviewed and edited for the following 2021 Annual Report.

Groton Greenway Committee

2021 Annual Report

Dated January 27, 2022

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 enjoy our rivers.

Groton Greenway Mission

* Continue to increase the protection of the Nashua and Squannacook River Greenways.
* Provide educational and interpretive opportunities to raise awareness of the importance of the rivers and associated greenways in Groton, and invite townspeople to use and enjoy the stream corridors in Groton in a low-impact manner.
* Promote low-impact usage and provide stewardship for the greenways.

Activities During the year 2021:

* The Groton Greenway Committee held limited meetings during the year, working with restrictions imposed to control the COVID-19 epidemic.
* The Committee met with Board of Health and Select Board to address concerns about the abandoned Groton Town landfill on Nod Road, adjacent to Nashua River. The Greenway Committee wants to work with the Town of Groton to stabilize the site and reclaim the site for wildlife habitat and recreational use along the Nashua River greenway corridor.
* The Committee had to cancel the 2021 Nashua River Festival due to COVID-19 restrictions, and the Committee will consider planning for a 2022 festival.

Goals for the year 2022:

* Plan for a 2022 River Festival to be held at the Petapawag Boat Launch.
* Continue dialog with landowners on protecting riverfront property.
* Continue to work with Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Division to identify and promote opportunities to protect ecosystems and increase biological diversity along the Groton greenways.
* Continue to provide water sampling along the Nashua River for the Nashua River Watershed Association.
* Work with the Town of Groton and landowners along Nashua River to identify and designate vernal pools.
* Continue to provide guidance on operations and maintenance of Fitch’s Bridge.
* Investigate management opportunities for the Nod Road parcel (former Groton town landfill) along the Nashua River.
* Recruit additional volunteers for the 2022 River Festival and pursue donation funds and other sources of funding to sustain the River Festival tradition.
* Investigate and pursue opportunities for conservation education and outdoor recreational opportunities along the Nashua River corridor.
* Continue to assist in the National Wild and Scenic River Act study of Nashua River and tributaries.
* Provide input to revisions to the Groton Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Respectfully,

The Groton Greenway Committee

Adam Burnett, Chair

Carol Coutrier

Marina Khabituyeva

David Pitkin

Upon a motion by Marina, seconded by Carol, it was

VOTED: to approve the 2021 Town Report for Town Meeting as discussed and written.

The vote was unanimous.

1. Nod Road Landfill Site
2. Adam and Marina met with the Groton Board of Health
3. Access to the site will not be allowed due to evidence of contamination.
4. Board of Health will work with the Groton Greenway Committee to initiate further study of the site.
5. Board of Health deferred to the Select Board.
6. Adam and Marina will put together a presentation on Nod Road landfill site situation for our next Groton Greenway Committee meeting.

Upon a motion by Carol, seconded by Marina, it was

VOTED: To invite Ralph Baker, new head of NRWA, Michelle Collette, and Marion Stoddart to our next Groton Greenway Committee meeting

The vote was unanimous.

1. New Members, New Committee Positions
2. Marina will contact Pete Carson regarding becoming a new Groton Greenway Committee member.
3. Adam will step down as Groton Greenway Committee Chair.

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

VOTED: to accept Marina Khabituyeva as the new Chair of the Groton Greenway Committee.

The next Groton Greenway Committee meeting will be held via ZOOM on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022 at 7 PM.

Upon a motion by Carol, seconded by Marina, it was

VOTED: to adjourn

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Coutrier