Groton Greenway Committee

Open Session Minutes, January 23, 2025, 7:00 PM

Lunch Room, Town Hall, 173 Main Street, Groton

Marina Khabituyeva called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Members Pete Carson, David Pitkin, and Adam Burnett were present. Visitors were Cathy Anderson, Marisa Browning-Kamins, and two students, Dakota Kerr and Keegan Evans.

1. Marisa Browning-Kamis from NRWA Greenway Program

Marisa shared details about the NRWA Marion Stoddard Greenway Fund and a renewed effort to protect 300 of our rivers and streams and tributaries. Her group is re-connecting with the Greenway Committee and other conservation groups to advocate and bring these groups and land owners along the waterways together. She pointed out that Groton has lots of protected land and wanted to know what Groton is doing now and wants to do in the future.

Adam indicated that Groton would emphasize more public access for trails and wildlife, Pete expressed interest in environmental enhancement, and Dave advocated for acquiring more land. A concern was raised that some owners are uncooperative about letting people walk on their property.

Noting that a watershed includes not just the rivers but also their tributaries, it was pointed out that Groton has watersheds of two rivers: the Nashua and the Merrimack.

Marisa would like to have a working meeting next time to share information about possible land sites, to review a map of protected land, and to identify willing land owners. It was noted that the Groton Greenway Committee has never purchased any land. Some potential parcels were identified: Beach land 205-2 Parcel Smith, West Groton Shack, Nod and Gratuity land, and land near River Bend. It was suggested that conservation-minded land owners could benefit from using Chapter 61 as a tax break. Work item to collect some parcels to discuss with Marisa at a later date. At 7:40, Marisa left the meeting.

1. Riverfest 2025

* Pete has a permit for June 8th, a weekend that is neither Father’s Day nor graduation.
* AI: new Trello for 2025
* Invitations to exhibitors
* Make a budget and involve Russ in the financial process
* Posters - can go out without a list of donors and be replaced later; Pitkin Jenifer to design
* Find out who has the animals; Stilts - Puppet People
* Involve Heather in Arts and Crafts, a table for kids
* Cardboard Canoe race

3. 2024 Annual Town Report

David to update last year’s for this year and send to Kara.

4. Letter of support for the West Groton Rail Trail

David Pitkin moved, and Adam Burnett seconded a motion that the committee send a letter of support for the West Groton Rail Trail. The motion passed with all in favor.

5. Membership Discussion

A brief discussion about new members and limits to the number of members on this committee was held. A suggestion that the committee have 7 members was made, but no action taken. Perhaps at the next meeting on February 27.

6. Miscellaneous

Nothing for Miscellaneous.

At 8:11 Pete Carson moved to adjourn, and Adam Burnett seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.