

Third Annual

Groton Conservation Summit

16 Feb 2017, 18:00 – 21:00

Lawrence Academy Media Center

The annual Groton Conservation Summit is a meeting of all conservation-related organizations in Groton to discuss topics of mutual interest, and to explore cross-boundary cooperation.

The summit is organized alternately by the Groton Conservation Trust, the Groton Conservation Commission, and the Groton Trails Committee. This 2017 summit was organized by the Trails Committee. The 2018 summit will be organized by the Groton Conservation Trust.

This document is a list of the attending organizations, their missions, and key contact people. We hope that this list will be a useful resource over the coming year.

On behalf of the Trails Committee, we thank all those who participated in this summit to further the efforts to acquire, maintain, and enhance natural areas open to the public in Groton. Special thanks go to Lawrence Academy for making their facility available at no charge.

Sincerely,

Paul Funch,

Olin Lathrop,

Groton Trails Committee

Friends of the Trees

Friends of the Trees is a volunteer organization that assists the Tree Warden, Tom Delaney, and the Highway Department with the choosing, planting, funding, and caring for the trees lovely Groton. The group was conceived in 1982. Concerned citizens realized that many of the trees on Groton's byways, lanes, commons, and Main Street were lost, dead, or dying. Large storms, blight, disease and insect damage were affecting the majestic trees and help was needed. We always think about of the health of our trees trying to provide assistance for the proper placement of trees and tree care. Time and effort is spent buying correct species for the planting environment. Other Friends of the Trees projects are diverse and beneficial. We buy books for the schools and the Library, we work on tree education and labeling, and work with other organizations to help beautify Groton. These challenges are rewarding and fun. Friends of the Trees, since conception, has planted hundreds of trees.

Contacts

Suzanne Goehringer, (978) 448-9235, suzanne@goehringer.com

Attending

Darcy Donald

Suzanne Goehringer

Greenway Committee

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 River Greenways
- 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 2016 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
- Thanks past member Matt McCracken and wished him and his family luck with their new home

Goals for the Upcoming Year

- Hold 2017 River Festival on June 11 at the Petapawag Boat Launch
<https://www.facebook.com/GrotonGreenwayRiverFestival/>
- 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
- Recruit a new member and additional volunteers for the 2017 River Festival

People

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
Adam Burnett	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Carol Coutrier	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Matthew McCracken	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
David Pitkin	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Marion Stoddart	Chair	07/01/2016	06/30/2017

Contacts

(978) 448-1111, selectmen@townofgroton.org

Great Ponds Advisory Committee

The Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) is responsible to research the history of weed management at the lakes, investigate current weed management methodology, mindful of the lake's proximity to the primary water resource district and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding weed management of Lost Lake, Knops Pond, Baddacook Pond and other great ponds within Groton. GPAC is also charged with researching issues of lake management that relate to health, safety, water quality, environmental protection and the preservation and protection of property values of the Great Ponds located within Groton and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen in order to provide for a balanced targeted usage appropriate for each water body's unique situation.

People

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
Francoise Forbes	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Marshall E. Giguere	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Susan Horowitz	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
James Luening	Chair	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Arthur Prest	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
William Strickland	Secretary	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Alexander Woodle	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017

Contacts

(978) 448-1111, GPAC@townofgroton.org

Attending

James Luenig, Committee Chair

Groton Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission was established in 1963 “for the promotion and development of the natural resources and the protection of the watershed resources” of the Town (Conservation Commission Act, MGL Ch. 40, §8C). The Commission is responsible for the administration of the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Ch.131, §40) and Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Town of Groton Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Ch. 215 of the Town Code) which became effective in 2001. Any person intending to alter any area in or within 200 feet of a river or perennial stream or in or within 100 feet of a wetland (intermittent stream, creek, lake, pond, swamp, marsh, bog, or wet meadow) must file a Request for Determination of Applicability or a Notice of Intent with the Commission. Minor projects (decks, utility installations, tree cutting, removal of non-native, invasive plants, etc.) that involve minimal or temporary intrusion into the 100-foot buffer zone of wetland resource areas require the filing of a Request for Determination of Applicability before the work commences.

The Commission also manages over 1000 acres of Town-owned conservation land and oversees applications for Agricultural Preservation Restrictions and Conservation Restrictions on privately held property. The periodic updating of the *Groton Open Space and Recreation Plan* is spearheaded by the Conservation Commission, with the assistance of the Parks Commission. A current *Plan* maintains the Town’s eligibility to apply for state funding grants. Community input and careful assessment of the status of natural resources assist the Town in prioritizing parcels for protection.

The Commission and staff advise other municipal officials and boards on conservation issues relating to these boards’ areas of responsibility. One member serves on the Earth Removal & Stormwater Advisory Committee.

People

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
Susan Black	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2019
Bruce Easom	Member	07/01/2014	06/30/2017
Marshall E. Giguere	Member	07/01/2015	06/30/2018
Olin Lathrop	Clerk	06/01/2016	06/30/2017
Eileen Mchugh	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2019
Peter Morrison	Vice-Chair	07/01/2016	06/30/2019
John Smigelski	Chair	07/01/2015	06/30/2018

Members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen to three year terms. The full time Conservation Administrator is Takashi Tada.

Contacts

(978) 448-1106, conservation@townofgroton.org

Groton Conservation Trust

Groton Conservation Trust is a private, non-profit land trust in Groton, Massachusetts. GCT signFounded in 1964, our organization acquires, preserves and provides public access to lands with significant conservation value. During the past 50 years the Trust has become the steward of over 40 properties totaling over 1,400 acres, yet it remains an all-volunteer, single-town entity. Over that time, the Trust has grown from accepting fee simple donations of land such as Fitch-Woods to protecting land through its own limited development projects such as Still Meadow to accepting conservations easements as we did recently for The Conservation Commission on the Walker Property.

Trustees

Ted Lapres, President
Mark Gerath, Vice President
John Llodra, Treasurer
Scott Wilson, Clerk
David Black
Holly Estes
Wendy Good
Susan Hughes
Ed McNierney
Richard Muehlke
Bob Pine
David Pitkin
Michelle Ruby
Charles E. Vander Linden
Dan Wolfe

Contacts

<http://www.gctrust.org>

Groton Garden Club

Mission: The purpose of this club is to encourage and promote interest in and development of all aspects of gardening.

Our mission provides a broad framework in which the club has operated over the years. Currently we maintain or share responsibility for five gardens within Groton: the Blue Star Memorial on Sawyer Common, Hanson Memorial on Playground Road, Hollis Street Triangle, Prescott Common, and Four Corners Traffic Island. We also fill the watering troughs in West Groton and in Groton Center with seasonal plantings and arrangements and help to maintain the gardens at the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden. We have monthly meetings and programs from October through June, run an annual Plant Sale, take educational and fun field trips, and hold garden-related workshops. Yes, we are a busy group and enjoy getting our hands dirty together, as well as talking about gardens over a cup of tea or coffee. To get an overview of the things we do, see our summary committee descriptions.

Contacts

The Groton Garden Club

P.O. Box 413

Groton, MA 01450

info@grotongardenclub.org

<http://grotongardenclub.org>

Groton Lakes Association

The Groton Lakes Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the Lakes of eastern Groton; primarily "Lost Lake," "Knop's Pond," "Baddacook Pond" and their coves.

Attending

Brad Harper, President

Groton Trails Committee

The Trails Committee considers the sometimes conflicting interests of various trail users, hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and others. The Trails Committee is responsible for:

- updating the map showing the current trail system on public property
- identifying existing private property trails
- determining the availability of other parcels for trail expansion
- developing policy or techniques for acquiring other trails through acquisition, easements, and other methods
- investigating old roads and determining whether they belong to the town or have been abandoned or discontinued

Web site: www.grotontrails.org

People

Members are appointed by the selectmen to one year terms.

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
David Burnham	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Paul Funch	Chair	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Olin Lathrop	Vice Chair	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Stephen A. Legge	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Wanfang Murray	Member	09/06/2016	06/30/2017
Emma Newman	Secretary	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Tim Newman	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Daniel Patnaude	Member	12/05/2016	06/30/2017
James Peregoy	Member	10/24/2016	06/30/2017
Jason Remillard	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Darcy Schultz	Member	02/01/2017	06/30/2017

Contacts

trails@townofgroton.org

Groton Turtle Conservation

Groton Turtle Conservation's mission is to protect our local turtle populations by:

- Working with local and state agencies, turtle professionals and volunteers
- Identifying and monitoring roads with frequent turtle mortality
- Providing permanent and temporary "Slow Turtle Xing" signage
- Sharing sign templates, operating model and info with other groups
- Recording data on road mortality for the state
- Facilitating the rescue and rehabilitation of injured turtles
- Monitoring nesting activity
- Advocating for the protection of many types of habitats required for turtle survival
- Educating adults and children about our local turtle species

Contacts

grotonturtles@gmail.com

Darcy Donald, home (978) 448 5032, cell (207) 415-5720

Attending



Darcy Donald

Groton Water Department

People

Thomas Orcutt, Water Superintendent

Water Commissioners:

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
Greg R. Fishbone	Member	05/21/2016	05/21/2019
James L. Gmeiner	Member	05/20/2014	05/16/2017
John J. McCaffrey Jr	Member	05/21/2015	05/21/2018

Contacts

(978) 448-1122, water@townofgroton.org

Hazel Grove Association

In 2011, the Hazel Grove Planning Committee (referred to hereafter as “the Committee”) was formed under the direction of the Town of Groton – Park Commission. The Committee was charged with the following direction:

The primary goal for your Committee is that, by June 30, 2012, you will have submitted a 1-, 3-, and 5-year plan to undertake a study for the betterment, the improvement, the maintenance, and the bringing forth of longevity to the Hazel Grove Park, taking into consideration not only the historic use of the Park but also the current needs of the Town and the future vision of Groton and where the Park fits into that vision. During a tour of Hazel Grove Park, the Committee raised concerns about the condition of the buildings, fencing, and general infrastructure. Use of the park seemed exclusive to certain groups, and there was no consistent information on- or off-site to determine who could or did use the facility.

The Committee also reached out to all youth athletic programs to determine if those organizations were in need of additional facilities and if Hazel Grove Park could provide those facilities. The Committee brainstormed future uses and users, visited other historic fairgrounds, met with organizers to discuss how they revitalized their fairgrounds, conducted a community meeting to obtain the input of Groton residents on their ideas for the use of Hazel Grove Park, reviewed historical documents to determine past uses and origins of the facilities, and surveyed its natural resources.

The Committee has determined that, due to its location, natural resources, and history, Hazel Grove Park is uniquely suited for the Town of Groton for agricultural, equestrian, and educational uses. It is the only town-owned Groton site actively supporting equestrian sports.

In June of 2012, the Committee submitted its final report to the Town of Groton by way of the Park Department. A full copy of that report can be found here: [Hazel Grove Planning Committee report](#).

Invasive Species Committee

The Invasive Species Committee was created in Summer 2015 to help Groton town committees address a growing problem: The spread of invasive plant and animal species. Many invasive species are becoming a significant problem in Groton. They are detrimental to natural ecosystems and cultivated landscapes, and negatively impact land management practices and purposes. The Committee's charge includes:

- To survey and document invasive species in Groton; where, and what problems they are causing.
- To be a central point of contact for reporting of invasive issues and remediation actions.
- To become educated and stay current with invasive species control techniques.
- To recruit and maintain a list of volunteers to call on to help perform labor-intensive and other tasks.
- To perform invasive species control in cooperation with land owners, both public and private.
- To educate the public and Town committees on invasive species.
- To advocate for stewardship practices that discourage invasive species.
- To research grant opportunities and apply as appropriate.

So far we have published two brochures, held invited public seminars by leading experts, initiated invasive plant removal on a public parcel, and are actively pursuing herbicide applicator licenses.

People

Members are appointed by the Selectmen to one year terms.

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
Brian Bettencourt	Chair	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Adam Burnett	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Olin Lathrop	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2017
Greta Marks-Strouble	Member	10/24/2016	06/30/2017

Contacts

invasive@townofgroton.org

Attending



Brian Bettencourt



Adam Burnett



Olin Lathrop



Greta Marks-Strouble

Mass Audubon Society

Mass Audubon protects 36,500 acres of land throughout Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife, and making nature accessible to all. As Massachusetts' largest nature conservation nonprofit, Mass Audubon welcomes more than a half million visitors a year to its wildlife sanctuaries and 20 nature centers. From inspiring hilltop views to breathtaking coastal landscapes, serene woods, and working farms, Mass Audubon is protecting Massachusetts's natural treasures for wildlife and for all people—a vision shared in 1896 by its founders, two extraordinary Boston women. Today, Mass Audubon is a nationally recognized environmental education leader, offering thousands of camp, school, and adult programs that get over 225,000 kids and adults outdoors every year. With more than 125,000 members and supporters, Mass Audubon advocates on Beacon Hill and beyond, and conduct conservation research to preserve the natural heritage of our beautiful state for today's and future generations.

Contacts

Mass Audubon
208 South Great Road
Lincoln, MA 01773
(781) 259-9500

Attending

Stephen Hutchinson
Regional Director - Central West Plus
(781) 259-2154
shutchinson@massaudubon.org

MA Division of Fish and Wildlife

Contacts

Division of Fish and Wildlife
85 Fitchburg Road
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-2145

Pat Huckery, district supervisor, X-222, pat.huckery@state.ma.us

Anne Gagnon, Notheast District X-223, anne.gagnon@state.ma.us

Jennifer Jones, jennifer.l.jones@state.ma.us

Attending

Pat Huckery

Anne Gagnon

Jennifer Jones



The mission of the Nashua River Watershed Association, founded in 1969, is to work for a healthy ecosystem with clean water and open spaces for human and wildlife communities, where people work together to sustain mutual economic and environmental well-being in the Nashua River watershed.

NRWA is a regional leader in natural resource protection and environmental education with a staff of 11 professionals (7 full-time equivalents) working out of the Nashua River Resource Center in Groton, MA. Our work is supported by a Board of 17 talented Directors and hundreds of dedicated volunteers. Our watershed encompasses 32 communities in north central Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, including Groton.

Our three main goals:

1. Restore and protect water quality and quantity for people, fish, and wildlife
2. Conserve open spaces for water quality, wildlife habitat, farms, forests, and recreation
3. Encourage careful land use with well-planned development

Some current Projects:

- Leading the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee
- Monitoring water quality at approx. 40 streamside locations seven months each year
- Facilitating the Nashua River Regional Aquatics Invasive Alliance
- Conducting culvert assessments re: stream continuity, climate resiliency
- Providing River Classroom® and Scientist-in-Residence programs to 30+ schools
- Interviewing local working landowners (farmers, foresters) for "Farms, Fields, and Forests: Voices from the Land in the Nashua River Watershed" oral history project
- Providing educational programs for adults on current environmental topics—usually free

People

Elizabeth Ainsley Campbell	Executive Director	EAC@NashuaRiverWatershed.org
Mark Archambault	Smart Growth Circuit Rider	MarkA@NashuaRiverWatershed.org
Gaynor Bigelbach	Education Assistant	GaynorB@NashuaRiverWatershed.org
Stacey Chilcoat	River Classroom® & Environmental Education Director	StaceyC@NashuaRiverWatershed.org
Al Futterman	Land Programs Director	AIF@NashuaRiverWatershed.org

Martha Morgan	Water Programs Director	MarthaM@NashuaRiverWatershed.org
Kathryn Nelson	Water Monitoring Coordinator	KathrynN@NashuaRiverWatershed.org
Wynne Treanor-Kvenvold	Communications Manager	WynneT@NashuaRiverWatershed.org

Contacts

Nashua River Watershed Association
592 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
(978) 448-0299

Attending



Stacey Chilcoat

New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF)

At the core of New England Forestry Foundation's work stands the belief that both conserving forestland and practicing sustainable forestry are essential to preserving the beauty, prosperity, wildlife habitats, and unique character of our region for future generations. Our approach strives to serve and unite people and organizations across the region to support the long-term health of New England's forests, and to guarantee their continued environmental, recreational, and economic benefits for all New Englanders.

How does NEFF work to accomplish our mission?

We conserve forestland for future generations through purchases, gifts, and bequests of land and easements.

We actively manage NEFF-owned lands as demonstration and education forests, applying advanced practices in sustainable forestry and modeling tools and techniques that private landowners may wish to adopt.

We advocate for policies and incentives that encourage and sustain private forestland ownership, ensuring that landowners have economically viable alternatives to selling their land for development.

We keep 140+ NEFF lands open to the public as community forests, with no charge for admission, ensuring New Englanders have access to all the recreational opportunities that forests provide.

We are a resource for forestland owners in our region, helping them to achieve their own land management and legacy objectives.

We educate landowners and the general public about the importance of forestry through outreach and programming.

We steward conservation easements that have been entrusted to us, ensuring that landowners' conservation intents are sustained in accordance with their expressed wishes.

We are future-focused, and committed to innovation and integrity. NEFF helps prepare the region for a future where forestry is increasingly important, not only to keep forests healthy in the face of climate change, but also as a part of a global environmental solution to climate change. We engage in numerous strategic initiatives to expand the region's land protection capacity, further forest education, and ensure that NEFF fulfills its mission.

We endorse and partner with organizations and supporters to work towards the Harvard Forest Wildlands and Woodlands vision to conserve 30 million acres of New England forest.

Contacts

New England Forestry Foundation
32 Foster Street
Littleton, MA 01460
(978) 952-6856

Bob Perschel, Executive Director, rperschel@newenglandforestry.org
Whit Beals, Director of Land Protection, wbeals@newenglandforestry.org
Chris Pryor, Director of Forest Stewardship, cpryor@newenglandforestry.org

Attending

Chris Pryor

Parks Commission

The Park Commissioners have under their care and jurisdiction the Town Commons (Badger, Firemen's, Legion, Minuteman, New Town, Prescott, Orchard and Sawyer) and Parks (Hazel Grove Park, Carol Wheeler Memorial Park, the Smith Social Pavilion, George and Agnes Rider Park and Cutler Memorial Park) that were gifted to the Town along with various recreation areas including the Christine Hanson Memorial Playground, Evan Holofcener Ice Rink, the Lawrence Memorial Playground and the Voitowicz tennis courts. The Commissioners also have jurisdiction over the town fields, including: Alvin Sawyer Baseball Field, Voitowicz, Cow Pond and Legion. They:

- have responsibility to protect these areas, some of which have special restrictions and legal agreements attached to the original gift; one area, the Old Burial Ground, is a shared responsibility (see Old Burial Ground Committee)
- maintain storage sheds and buildings, irrigation systems, and equipment
- work with the Planning Board to acquire more land and seek gifts of land, as the Town population grows and the need for recreational facilities increases for both children and adults

The Commission dates from the early 1900s, and the membership increased from three to five members in 1953. The Commissioners do not run recreational programs but care for and maintain the above properties and work very closely with the various recreational sports leagues.

Use of all parks, commons and fields are by permit only. To request the use of a field, please fill out the Field Use Permit online. Alternatively, you may print the form here or pick one up at the Town Clerk's office located at the Town Hall, 173 Main Street.

People

Members

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
Evan R. Boucher	Chair	05/21/2016	05/21/2019
Kenneth Bushnell	Member	05/21/2016	05/21/2019
Robert Flynn	Member	05/21/2016	05/22/2018
James Gaffney	Member	05/21/2016	05/21/2019
Timothy Siok	Vice-Chair	09/01/2016	05/16/2017

Contacts

(978) 732-1893, parks@townofgroton.org

Planning Board

The Planning Board is mandated by state law to:

- prepare and maintain the Town's Master Plan and Official Map
- prepare, adopt, and administer Subdivision Rules and Regulations
- review all subdivision plans submitted under state and local-by-law and regulations
- supervise construction of subdivision roads and drainage systems
- prepare and present zoning amendments at Town Meeting
- report to Town Meeting on all proposed zoning amendments, no matter by whom proposed
- act as special permit granting authority where designated in the Zoning by-law
- review site plans for non-residential, non-agricultural development

The Planning Board was first established in 1946 when the Town Meeting accepted the Subdivision Control Law. The first zoning by-law, adopted in 1956, established minimum lot area and frontage requirements. Zoning districts were adopted in 1963 based upon the Comprehensive Master Plan written by Harvard Professor Charles Eliot. The Town voted to increase membership on the Board from five to seven members in 1980. The Comprehensive Master Plan was updated in 1990.

The Planning Board is served by the Land Use Director/Town Planner.

People

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
George Barringer	Clerk	05/18/2016	05/21/2019
Russell Burke	Chair	05/21/2015	05/21/2018
John Giger	Vice-Chair	05/18/2016	05/21/2019
Carolyn Perkins	Member	05/21/2015	05/21/2018
Timothy M. Svarczkopf	Member	05/21/2015	05/21/2018
Michael Vega	Member	05/21/2014	05/21/2017
Scott Wilson	Member	05/20/2014	05/20/2017

Contacts

(978) 448-1105, planning@townofgroton.org

Attending

Carolyn Perkins

John Giger

Sargisson Beach Committee

The committee's mission is:

- To preserve, restore, maintain and manage the Sargisson Beach and Richard F. Priest Memorial properties on behalf of the Groton Conservation Commission (ConCom);
- To encourage such other uses of the town beach as may be of benefit to the community and to raise the town's appreciation of value of Lost Lake and Knopps pond.
- To manage and improve the community access to Knops Pond and Lost Lake including providing recreation opportunities.
- To manage/budget operating funds and donated funds for Sargisson Beach
- To cooperate with and report on status to the Conservation Commission with respect to the use of the surrounding conservation land and trail.

The town steward for the Priest and Sargisson land (What people call Sargisson Beach is composed of these two donated properties) is the Conservation Commission. The Sargisson Beach Committee (SBC) is primarily responsible for aquatic recreational activities at the beach, including maintenance of the aquatic related natural resources, maintenance of the parking area, maintenance of the "cart" trail from the parking lot to the beach and maintenance of the shed which stores gear for aquatic activities and the maintenance of the previously mentioned items. The SBC is also responsible for signage associated with parking and aquatic recreational activities.

People

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
Andrew Davis	Member	09/30/2013	06/30/2016
Joshua Degen	Member	07/01/2014	06/30/2017
John Giger	Member	07/01/2015	06/30/2018
Cheney Harper	Member	09/30/2013	06/30/2016
Rena Swezey	Member	09/30/2013	06/30/2015

Contacts

(978) 448-1106, sargissonbeach@townofgroton.org

Attending

John Giger

Squannacook Greenways

Squannacook Greenways mission is to build, maintain, and promote the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) as a source of recreation and safe non-motorized transportation. The Squannacook River Rail Trail will be a conversion of approximately 3.7 miles of abandoned railroad in Groton and Townsend Massachusetts into a recreational trail based on the successful model of the Wachusett Greenways. The stone dust trail will provide a safe alternative to bike-unfriendly Route 119 and an enjoyable route for human-powered travel between important natural, historic, and cultural landmarks. The SRRT has potential to become a long-distance trail extending to the Nashua River Rail Trail in Ayer, Massachusetts and to the Mason-Greenville Railroad Trail in New Hampshire. The trail will be constructed with private funds.

Contacts

<http://www.sqgw.org>

rideout@sqgw.org

Rail Trail web site: <http://www.squannacookriverrailtrail.org/index.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SquannacookRiverRailTrail>

Attending

Peter Cunningham

Bruce Easom

Stephen Meehan

Town Forest Committee

The Town Forest Committee

- manages the forest lands which have been gifted to or purchased by the Town for Town Forest purposes

Proceeds from the selective harvesting of timber remain in a reserve fund used for maintaining a healthy forest as well as a system of trails for fire protection. The Town Forest provides protection for the watershed, educational activities, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

The Groton Town Forest, created by vote of the Town Meeting in 1922, was among the first dozen such town forests in the Commonwealth authorized under state enabling legislation passed in 1910.

People

Member	Role	Term Start	Term End
Stephen Babin	Chair	07/01/2014	06/30/2017
Carter Branigan	Clerk	07/01/2015	06/30/2018
John Sheedy	Member	07/01/2016	06/30/2019

Contacts

(978) 448-1111, selectmen@townofgroton.org