

Groton Squannacook River Rail Trail Committee

Minutes of Public Meeting of 9 July 2009

Location: Groton Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, Groton, MA

Time: 7:00 PM

Members Present: Pete Carson (Vice Chairman), Peter Cunningham (Chairman) and Bruce H. Easom (Secretary)

Members Absent: Steve Legge and Kevin McKenzie

Members of Squannacook River Rail Trail Funding Exploration Committee Present: Bill Martin and Bill Rideout

Attendees: Mark Cram

The Chairman brought the meeting to order at 7:14 PM. The Committee began by reviewing previously unapproved meeting minutes.

The Committee first reviewed the draft meeting minutes from 24 July 2008. Bruce H. Easom moved to approve the minutes of 24 July 2008 as drafted. Pete Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Committee then reviewed the draft meeting minutes from 21 August 2008. Bruce H. Easom moved to accept the meeting minutes from 21 August 2008 as drafted. Pete Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote with Peter Cunningham and Bruce H. Easom voting in favor and Pete Carson abstaining.

The Committee next reviewed the draft meeting minutes from 18 September 2008. Pete Carson moved to accept the minutes as amended. Bruce H. Easom seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Committee next reviewed the draft meeting minutes from 11 June 2009. Pete Carson moved to accept the meeting minutes as drafted. Bruce H. Easom seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Committee reviewed the rest of the meeting agenda.

Bill Rideout reported on the meeting with the Townsend Board of Selectmen. Bill said that Peter Cunningham, Hirk Fortin, Ken Gerkin, Steve Meehan were there with him give the Selectmen a project status update and to get their approval to submit a Project Need Form jointly with the Town of Groton. Bill reported that the Selectmen directed the Townsend Town Administrator, Greg Barns, to draft a letter to include with Groton's

Project Need Form. Peter Cunningham said that as soon as Groton receives this letter the Groton Board of Selectmen will submit it with their Project Need Form.

Peter Cunningham reported on the meeting held with Rick Sullivan, the DCR Commissioner, and his liaison, Sean Navin. Peter said that State Senator Steven Panagiotakos's chief aid, D.J. Corcoran, also attended. The meeting was held to discuss the possibility of DCR signing the right-of-way lease with the MBTA thereby relieving the Towns of Groton and Townsend of the environmental liability. Peter reported that he thought the meeting went well and that DCR may be able to help with the negotiation with the railroad. Peter said that DCR would be checking with their legal department about signing the MBTA lease. Bill Rideout said that the Committee should consider bringing in attorney Steve Winslow if we begin running into problems with the lease agreement.

As a follow up to the meeting, Bill Rideout agreed to contact Sean Navin to see if there has been any feedback on the lease arrangement.

The Committee discussed the status of the freight right negotiations with the B&M railroad. Bill said that Al Futterman is following up on this item and that we should postpone the discussion until the next meeting.

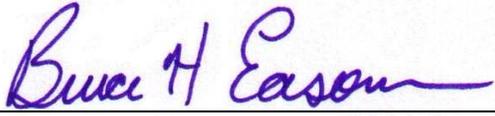
The Committee discussed the status of the earmarks from Congressman Olver's office and from Congresswoman Tsongas' office. Of particular interest is determining what the local match requirement will be for the new earmarks. Bruce H. Easom reported on a conversation he had with Groton's Town Manager, Mark Haddad. He reported that Mark told him that Congresswoman Tsongas' earmarks would require no local match. Bill Rideout volunteered to contact Al Futterman to ask Al if he would contact Congressman Olver's office to get details on his new earmarks.

The Committee discussed different funding scenarios for funding the 100% Design of the Squannacook River Rail Trail. Bruce H. Easom reported that the most significant factor in determining the practicality of funding is the required local match for the earmarks. He reported that a 20 percent match would require about a 12,000 local match even after a successful Trails Grant application. He said a required 10 percent local match would reduce that to a more reasonable \$3,000 local match. Bruce volunteered to send out a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet so members of the Committee could input their own funding assumptions and calculate the amount of local funding required.

The Committee agreed to meet again in Townsend at the Townsend Town Hall on Thursday 20 August 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Bruce H. Easom moved to adjourn the meeting. Pete Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce H. Eason
Bruce H. Eason
Secretary
Groton Squannacook River Rail Trail Committee

27 August 2009

Date

These minutes were approved by majority vote on 20 August 2009.