

# Groton Squannacook River Rail Trail Committee

## Minutes of Public Meeting of 17 September 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: Hirk Fortin and Steve Meehan

Attendees: Mark Cram and Al Futterman

The Chairman called meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The Committee reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the 20 August 2009 meeting. Bruce H. Easom moved to approve the minutes of 20 August 2009 as drafted. Peter Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried by majority vote with Bruce H. Easom and Peter Cunningham voting in favor and Pete Carson abstaining.

Peter Cunningham reported that Arthur Frost at MassHighway has confirmed receiving the Project Need Form. Peter Cunningham also reported that he has been playing phone tag with Mr. Tom LaRosa, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Chief Counsel, to discuss the possibility of DCR signing the lease agreement with the MBTA rather than the towns of Groton and Townsend.

Al Futterman updated the Committee on the B&M freight rights issue. Al said that he had spoken with Darleen Ligor at Pan Am Railways. Darleen said that she is canvassing all of the department heads and VPs about the issue and that she is still waiting for responses. Al reported that Darleen thought that liability indemnification will be an important issue for Pan Am. She asked if the lease was going to be a 99-year lease. She also said that the release of the freight rights may not be "given away". Al Futterman reported that Bill Rideout had recommended we contact Steve Winslow to see if he could help us with this.

Peter Cunningham volunteered to talk about the freight rights issue with Mr. LaRosa.

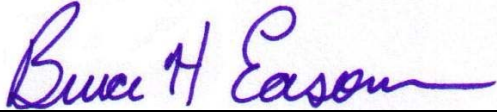
Al Futterman reported that he asked Kristin Wood of Congressman Olver's office about the status of the transportation earmarks. Kristen said that the transportation bill has not moved and probably would not move forward for a year.

The Committee discussed scheduling a outing to ride the new Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The Committee agreed to meet in the parking lot at Crosspoint Towers in Lowell (the northern end of the rail trail) at 2:00 PM on Sunday 4 October 2009.

The Committee then discussed the date for the next meeting. Members agreed to meet again on Thursday 15 October 2009 at 7:00 PM in Townsend.

Bruce H. Easom moved to adjourn the meeting. Peter Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



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

18 October 2009

Date

These minutes were approved by majority vote on 14 October 2009.