

GEORGETOWN RECREATION PATH COMMITTEE

January 13, 2011

Meeting Minutes 7:00 PM

Town Hall – 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Meeting Opened: 7:08 PM

Committee Member Attendees: (x indicates attendance)

X	Jeff Wade, Chairman (JW)	X	Bill Hastings, member (BH)	X	Bill Munroe, member (BM)
X	Chris Roop, member (CR)		Open		

Friends of the Committee: **Guests:** Gary Morris, abutter

Abbreviations and Terms: B2B – Border to Boston, NG – National Grid, GT – Georgetown, MPO - Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, TIP – Transportation Improvement Program, ROW – Right of Way

Minutes Approval: 11/11/10 approved as written, 12/9/10 approved as amended by unanimous vote

Correspondence:

- 1.

Meetings Attended:

1. MPO meeting: Nick Cracknell and Phil Trapanni attended recent meeting and voted to officially approve the TIP amendment that included the federal funding that was awarded to the four towns for the northern portion of the B2B Trail.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. National Grid update:
 - a. The license is ready for approval by Steve Towle. It has been approved by the NG lawyer.
 - b. Any discussion of bridge work will be supplemental to the approval of the license and will require submission of engineering drawings.
 - c. Need to add National Grid to town insurance policy as a named insured. BH will talk to town manager.
 - d. BH will look into bridge design and procurement. Possible contact for advice is Lou Mammalotte, civil engineer in GT.
2. Historic Commission will be attending the next meeting on 1/27.
3. GT Country Gardeners: BH will contact the group to see about inviting them to a meeting to talk about their involvement and ideas for landscaping and amenities.
4. Reviewed Open Items list. Updated completed tasks.
5. MPO: Need to add to trail project plan, follow-up with MPO to get construction funding of the project on the TIP.
6. Plan tasks: Reviewed list of agenda and follow-up items that need to be scheduled for action.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Gary Morris:
 - a. As a follow-up to his previous attendance and discussion with the committee (8/26/10), a volume of various pieces of documentation was presented pertaining to the issue of establishing the legal boundaries and ownership of his property which abuts the trail. At issue is whether National Grid owns the ROW “in fee” or whether it is owned by Mr. Morris. He was asked to provide copies of the relevant items for the committee to review, which he agreed to provide.
 - b. He mentioned a number of items in defense of his claims including the 2003 Supreme Court Rowley vs. Mass Electric decision and the 1965 re-valuation of properties including his which decreased the amount of acreage he owned by 1.4 acres, the same as the acreage of the ROW abutting his property (the contested area).
 - c. JW mentioned that the committee was not qualified to judge the validity of the claims he was making but did agree to review the documentation to see if it shed any light on whether National Grid owned the property in question. Any official determination would need to come from either the town or National Grid.

Other: Agenda for 1/27 meeting was drawn up.

Adjourn: 8:49 PM

Scheduled Committee Meetings (2nd fl. meeting room, 7PM): 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12, 5,26, 6/9, 6/23

Other Meetings: B2B

