Attending:
Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Al Futterman,
Ray Jackson, Don Klein, Steve Meehan,
Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Groton Conservation Summit
Steve and Ray attended the meeting on Feb 3,
with many conservation-related groups
represented. Ray gave a brief talk about the rail
trail. Steve noted that groups like the Groton
Garden Club and Groton Friends of the Trees
may be good contacts, for example to gain
information about plantings.

Meeting with Interim Townsend Town
Administrator
Steve met with Jim Kreidler on Jan 15, who was
very supportive of the rail trail and wrote us a
letter of support.

Upcoming Meeting with Townsend
Historical Society
We sent an abutter letter to the society and they
have invited us to their board meeting on Feb 25.

Gravel Roads Workshop
Bay State Roads has announced two workshops,
Feb 23 in Pittsfield and Mar 3 in Northampton.
This event comes highly recommended by
Wachusett Greenways. Mark and Ray have
signed up.

Connecting Communities
Freedom's Way Heritage Association
approached Ray to ask about a collaborative trail
event. An event is tentatively planned for Nov
2016.

Trail Clean-Up
Bill, Mark, Don, and Ray will walk the section
in Townsend Harbor to plot out what brush
needs to be cleared to open a walking trail.

Although this section is not near wetlands, we
will inform the Townsend Conservation of our
plans. We will also consider notifying abutters
of our activities before using power tools.

Abutter Visits
We discussed potential development at the
former Hirsch Lumber property.

Bill will ask Gary Shepherd if Sterilite has any
response to their abutter letter.

Nashoba Valley Healthcare
We did not win the grant from CFNCM and
Greater Lowell Community Foundation. There
were 16 awards made to 18 applications.

Joan will ask for feedback.

DCR Recreational Trails
Cedwyn submitted in January requesting $6,250
for engineering for trailside parking, trailhead
facilities, NHESP permitting costs, and
educational signage about safety, environmental
protection, and turtle habitat.

Decisions are expected in Sept-Oct. If we win,
we will have to provide a labor match to the
grant award.

Bruce J. Anderson Foundation
Joan submitted a proposal requesting $10,000
for both environmental protection and historical
preservation. Recommendations for award are
expected after their mid-May Board of Directors
meeting.

CFNCM
Joan submitted a cover sheet and concept paper
requesting $20,000 from the General
Endowment fund. Invitations for full
applications will go out the week of March 18,
with a due date of Apr 25.
Capital Campaign
Bill will send a sample introductory letter to Pete Carson and Pete Cunningham for use in Groton. He began looking into the next stage of fundraising, including a web site for buy-a-brick campaign.

Conservation/Natural Heritage
Bill drafted a position statement that supports the proposed parking area near Bertozzi. It states the benefits for Fisheries & Wildlife of allowing access to parking on MBTA land.
Al will ask Anne Gagnon for advice and show her a picture of the proposed rail trail parking lot.

Financial Report
Bill reported that our CFNCM stock investment is at a loss, so we may consider shifting to a shorter term funds.
We purchase both general liability and umbrella insurance. The MBTA clarified that it's fine for the contractor to have umbrella insurance instead of us, so we may be able to save some costs. Also, Wachusett Greenways pays much less than we do for liability insurance, so there may be additional cost savings.

Publicity
Townsend Earth Day will be Saturday, April 23.
Groton River Festival will be Sunday, June 19.

Iron Horse
The Iron Horse group contacted Mark for updates on our progress. They would be very interested in working with Gary Shepherd on selling the steel or any other collaborative arrangement.

Meeting Minutes
The corrected meeting minutes from January 13, 2016 were unanimously accepted.

Next Meeting
Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on Wed March 16. at the NRWA.