



The Groveland Community Trail

Project Status Update

January 25, 2016

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Board of Selectmen, January 25, 2016

1. Project status update
2. Project vision & mission; basic facts
3. Map & details of 2016 Town Meeting CPA warrant article
4. Financial facts
5. Major accomplishments to date; next steps

Joining Us This Evening, Representatives of

1. **John Hendrickson:** FST / Stantec (25% Design Plan)
2. **Todd Fontenella:** Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MassDOT Funding)
3. **Chris Roop:** Georgetown Rail Trail Committee (connection at King Street)
4. **Kate Day:** Danvers Rail Trail Committee (maintenance, sponsorship)
5. **Bill Steelman:** Essex National Heritage (community benefit, regional spirit)

Status Update: Board of Selectmen, January 25, 2016

1. **6.6x ROI**: \$350,000 of CPA (design) yields \$1.98MM from MassDOT (construction).
2. **Strong public support from MVPC**, the body who oversees our region's funding
3. **Sen Tarr & Rep Mirra are supportive**, offering to help navigate MassDOT funding
4. The project has a **clear timeline, achievable next steps**; demonstrated leadership
5. **The project will enrich our Town's quality of life** for current & future generations
6. **The trail will be 100% Self-Sustaining** – we intend never to ask for new taxes
7. **The project is public & transparent** (including *10+ televised events*)

Project Vision & Mission, and Basic Facts

Vision: A more connected Groveland

Mission: To sustainably provide safe, scenic, and healthy outdoor recreation and pedestrian transportation to all ages and abilities

Accomplished with the support of: Informed, responsible, and dedicated community members, with project stewardship from OSTC

Some Basic Facts:

Two proposed trail segments – 3.5 miles in total length




1. Off-Road (2.2 miles, paved): King St to Main St along National Grid's ROW (100% Design funded)
 1. Inclusive of .25 mile "trail-extension" from Main St. to Johnson's Creek & Bradford border
2. On-Road (1.3 miles, TBD surface/route): 441 Main St to Town Hall (Preliminary Design funded)

Multiple Town assets to be connected:

- Bagnall School, Rt 97 Improvements, Center Street Greenway, Shanahan Field, Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area, Groveland Center, Bates Bridge, Post Office, Perry Park School, Pines Recreation Area, Town Hall Complex, Police and Fire stations

Future connections, supported by MVPC: Georgetown @ King St; Bradford @ Main St – both Towns are aligned with and committed to linking with the Groveland Community Trail

No taxes will be raised/levied to build or maintain the trail: existing CPA dollars will be used for 100% of the design costs; maintenance will be self-sustaining by sponsorships/donations

-  On Road Segment
-  Off-Road Segment
-  Trail-Extension

Connection to
Bradford Rail Trail

"Trail-Extension"

Currently Funded:
 2014 Approved CPA Funds: \$150,000
 2015 Approved CPA Funds: \$150,000

Completed:

1. Clean Title Report for Off-Road segment (~\$7K)
2. 25% Design Plan: Off-Road Segment (~\$130K)
3. 10% Concept: On-Road Segment (included in \$130K)

Funded, In Progress:
 100% Design Plan (\$150K from 2015 CPA vote)

Next Steps:

1. Receive MassDOT Project ID# (estimated Feb 2016)
2. Submit 25% Design to National Grid (Feb 2016)
3. Be programmed into MassDOT TIP (2016 - 2017)

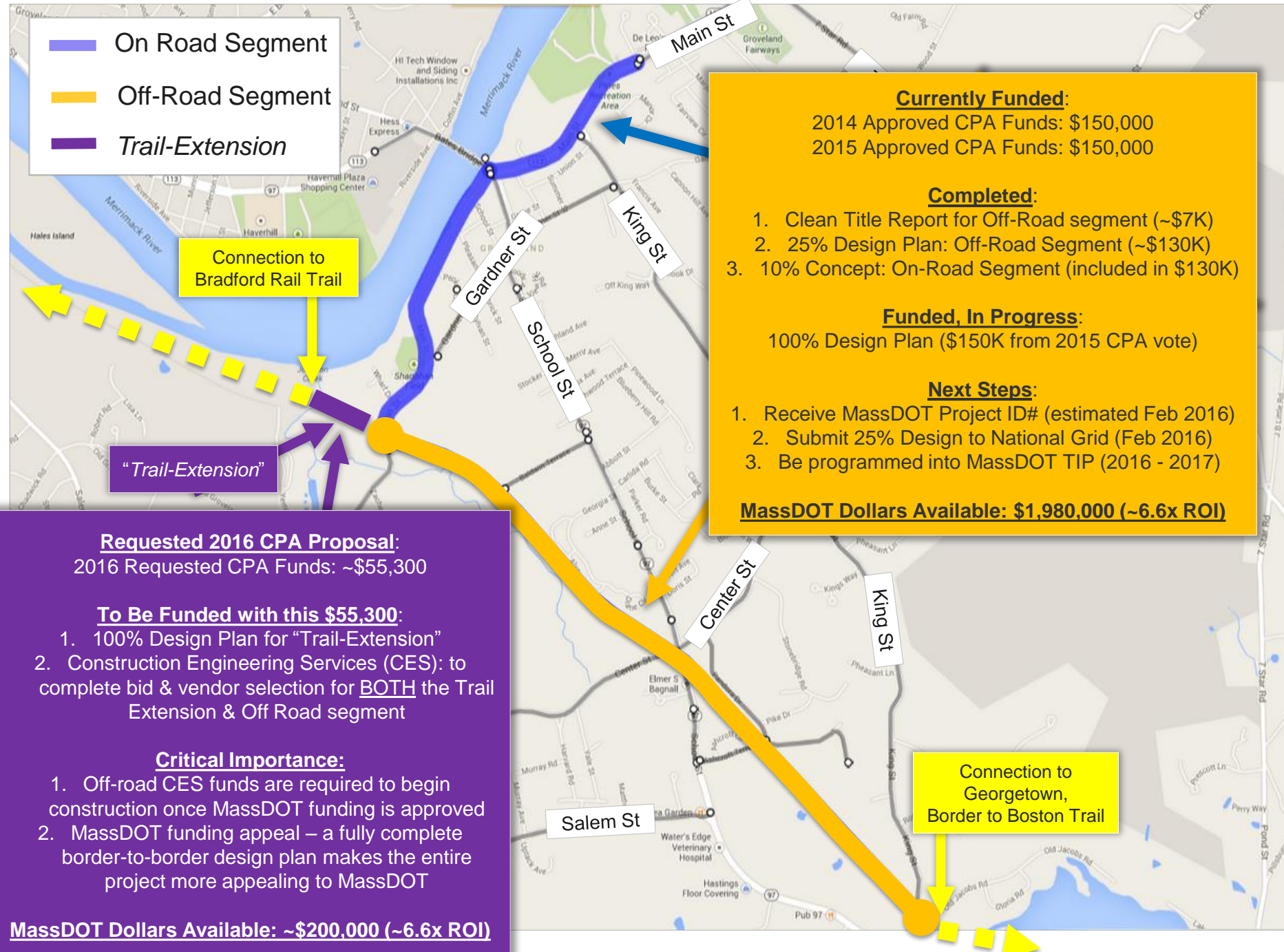
MassDOT Dollars Available: \$1,980,000 (~6.6x ROI)

Requested 2016 CPA Proposal:
 2016 Requested CPA Funds: ~\$55,300

- To Be Funded with this \$55,300:**
1. 100% Design Plan for "Trail-Extension"
 2. Construction Engineering Services (CES): to complete bid & vendor selection for BOTH the Trail Extension & Off Road segment

- Critical Importance:**
1. Off-road CES funds are required to begin construction once MassDOT funding is approved
 2. MassDOT funding appeal – a fully complete border-to-border design plan makes the entire project more appealing to MassDOT

MassDOT Dollars Available: ~\$200,000 (~6.6x ROI)



Funding Basics and Financial Facts:

Design Costs: 100% paid for by the Town of Groveland

- 100% of Groveland’s commitment is paid for by existing CPA funds – no bonds or additional taxes
- CPA proposals are staggered over multiple years to mitigate financial risk against any design challenges
- Estimates hold at ~\$550,000 for overall design costs

2014 Annual Town Meeting Funds			
Approved CPA Dollars	\$	150,000	
Spent: Title Work	\$	(6,924)	Confirmed National Grid cleanly owns all ROW
Spent: Design Costs	\$	(129,800)	Design Plans: 10% On-Road; 25% Off-Road
Spent: Public Outreach	\$	(585)	Public meeting postings in paper; mailings
Unspent:	\$	12,691	See Denise for payment schedule

2015 Annual Town Meeting			
Approved CPA Dollars	\$	150,000	
To be spent between 2015-2018 for Design	See Denise for payment schedule		Intended to evolve 25% Design Plan for Off-Road segment to 75% and then 100% Design Plan

2016 Annual Town Meeting			
Requested CPA Dollars	\$	55,300	
To be spent at a later date for off-road Construction Engineering Services			Intended to fund the public bidding & vendor selection process for construction services for off-road segment & trail extension

Construction Costs: 100% paid for with existing public MassDOT alternative-transportation funds

- Funded by way of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and GreenDOT
- Projected MassDOT investment is 6x-8x the Town’s design investment – i.e., \$1,980,000 for off-road segment, and a similar amount for the future on-road section.
- State Senator Tarr and State Rep Mirra’s office are aware and supportive of this project and willing to help navigate funding procedures if so desired by the Town of Groveland

Major Milestones Accomplished; Clear Next Steps

Current Status:

MAJOR MILESTONES:

- Clean title is proven for National Grid right-of-way – no private property will be taken to complete the off-road segment
- 25% Design Plan completed for off-road trail segment
- 10% Design Plan completed for off-road trail segment
- Project Need Form (PNF) & Project Initiation Forum (PIF) for the off-road segment have already been submitted to MassDOT
- All CPA funds are in place to advance 25% Design Plan (off-road) to 100% Design Plan
- 501.3c “Friends of the Groveland Community Trail” is officially recognized by MA Sec of State

OTHER:





- Overall, the project is on or ahead of schedule
- Full support by MVPC, the governing body who programs transportation funding in our region
- Awareness and support from elected State Senator Tarr and State Rep Mirra
- Haverhill and Georgetown are aligned with, and committed to, linking with our Town’s trail

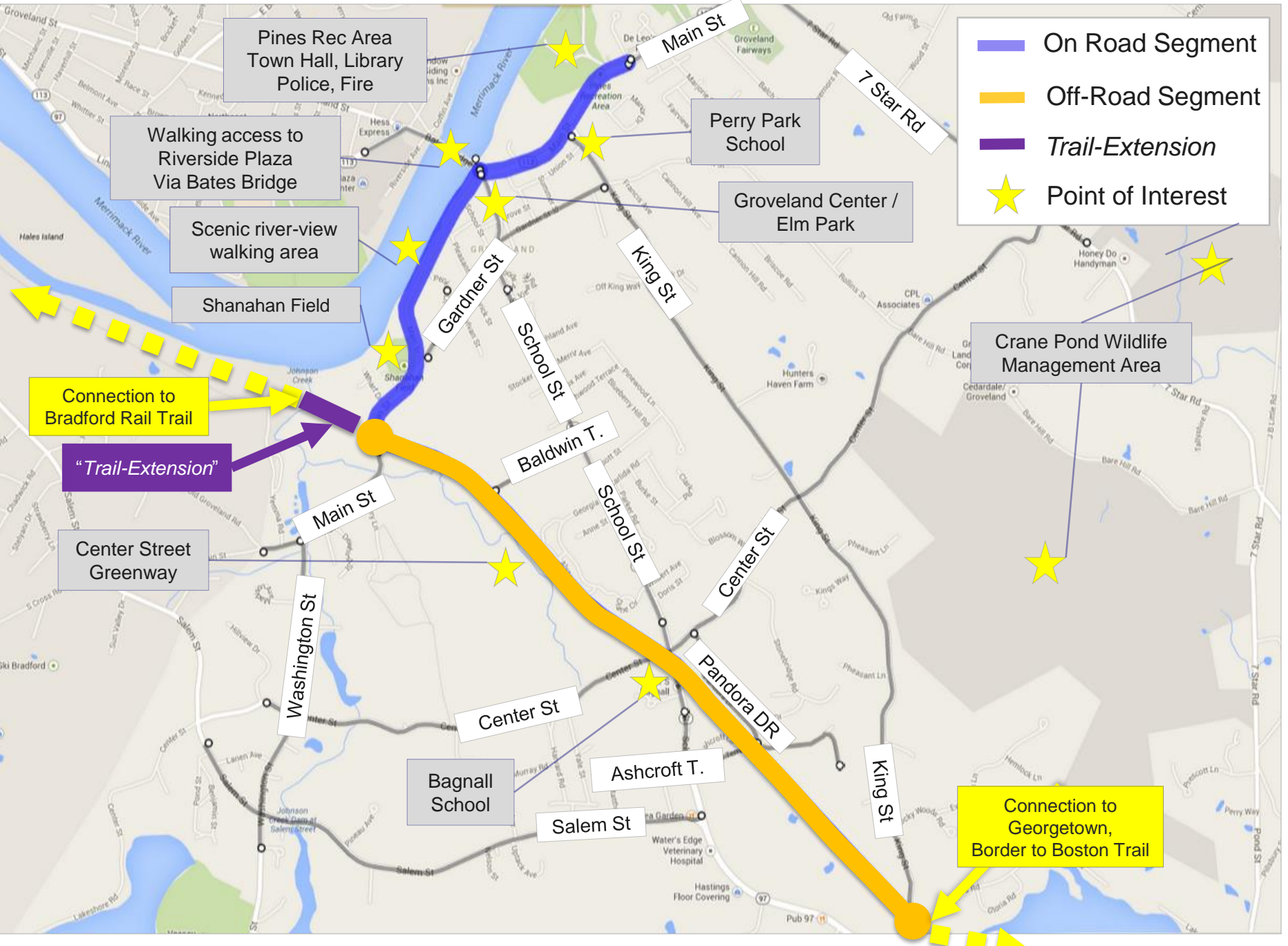
Immediate Next Steps:

- February 2016: MassDOT Project Review Committee meeting to assign Project ID #
- February 2016: formally submit 25% Design Plan for off-road trail segment to National Grid
- February 2016: request MassDOT Change Order for Rt 97 project – Center/School St crossing
- April 2016: Annual Town Meeting CPA proposal & vote
- 2016-2017: off-road trail segment programmed into MassDOT TIP funding queue: \$1,980,000

Appendix

- A. **Map:** off-road and on-road segments with key attractions
- B. **Milestones & Public Outreach:** 2010-present
- C. **Maintenance:** 100% self sustaining

-  On Road Segment
-  Off-Road Segment
-  Trail-Extension
-  Point of Interest



Pines Rec Area
Town Hall, Library
Police, Fire

Walking access to
Riverside Plaza
Via Bates Bridge

Scenic river-view
walking area

Shanahan Field

Connection to
Bradford Rail Trail

"Trail-Extension"

Center Street
Greenway

Bagnall
School

Connection to
Georgetown,
Border to Boston Trail

Perry Park
School

Groveland Center /
Elm Park

Crane Pond Wildlife
Management Area

Ashcroft T.

Salem St

Center St

Pandora DR

School St

Baldwin T.

School St

Gardner St

King St

7 Star Rd

Main St

Washington St

Main St

Center St

King St

7 Star Rd

7 Star Rd

7 Star Rd

7 Star Rd

Public Outreach and Milestones

2010:

– MAJOR MILESTONES (1):

- Open Space and Trails Committee survey identifies “rail-trail” as a top open space priority, while affirming majority support for preserving open spaces for recreation.

2012-13:

– PUBLIC OUTREACH (1):

- November Board of Selectmen meeting (**televised**)

– MAJOR MILESTONES (2):

- MVPC Feasibility Study proves general trail concept is feasible in Groveland
- MVPC-led committee formed, to unite efforts in Groveland, Bradford, and Haverhill

2014:

– PUBLIC OUTREACH (13):

- January: CPC meeting
- February, March, and April: FIVE (5) Public Forums hosted at Bagnall and Town Hall
- March: Planning Board meeting (**televised**)
- April: Board of Selectmen meeting (**televised**)
- April: CPC meeting (**televised**)
- April: Letter to the Editor, Eagle Tribune
- April: Annual Town Meeting presentation and vote (**televised**)
- July: Public RFP launched in Eagle Tribune to solicit applicants for engineering/design partners
- October CPC 2015 Needs Assessment meeting (**televised**)
- October: Public posting in Eagle Tribune announcing FST as engineer partner

– MAJOR MILESTONES (3):

- April: Annual Town Meeting - CPA warrant article passed for \$150,000 (**televised**)
- August: Through public RFP, Fay Spofford and Thorndike selected as engineering partners
- August: Title attorney proves clean title on National Grid right-of-way

– OTHER (4):

- January: Facebook and Website launched
- January: Letters of Support received from MVPC, Essex National Heritage, Groveland ConCom, Groveland OSTC
- January: First introductions with Steven Towle, National Grid
- September: First introductions, briefing with State Senator Tarr and State Representative Mirra

Public Outreach and Milestones ... *continued*

2015:

– PUBLIC OUTREACH (8):

- January: USPS mailing to all abutting property owners, Whitestone Village, and ~200 other close-proximity property owners announcing upcoming Public Forums.
- January: CPA proposal presentation (**televised**)
- February and April: TWO (2) Public Information Forums
- February: Private Information Forum for Whitestone Village
- March: Formal “Coordination Letters” sent to all Town bodies notifying them of the project and request for comment
- March: Board of Selectmen meeting (**televised**)
- April: Letter to the Editor, Eagle Tribune
- April: Annual Town Meeting presentation and vote (**televised**)

– MAJOR MILESTONES (4):

- January: Field Survey is complete
- February: FST delivers 25% Design Plan for off-road segment, and Conceptual Design Plan for on-road segment
- April: Annual Town Meeting - CPA warrant article passed for \$150,000
- July: MassDOT formally recognizes submitted Project Need Forum (PNF)

– OTHER:

- February: Letter of Support received from State Senator Bruce Tarr, and State Representative Lenny Mirra
- March: Letter of Support and funding clarification provided by MVPC to BOS Chairwoman Gorski
- November: Scheduled Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting postponed until Feb 2016

2016+:

– MAJOR MILESTONES

- 1H 2016: Groveland Community Trail project to be assigned a MassDOT Project ID #
- April 2016: request \$55,300 of existing CPA dollars to finish design for off-road trail segment
- 2016-17: off-road trail segment inserted into TIP funding queue for construction funds
- 2016-18: evolve the existing 25% Design Plan for the off-road trail segment to 75% and then 100%
- 2017-208: agree to a renewal license agreement with National Grid
- 2018-2020: finalize 99 year lease agreement with National Grid
- 2018-2020: public construction funds are appropriated from MassDOT TIP for the Groveland Community Trail
- 2018-2020: public bid and final construction vendor selection
- 2020+: begin construction of the Groveland Community Trail

Self-Sustainability & Maintenance Plan

NO Tax Dollars are planned for annual maintenance of the Groveland Community Trail

Maintenance of Vegetation

- Annual maintenance is relatively minimal – estimated \$5,000 or less per year
- Other local towns (e.g., Danvers, Salisbury, Newburyport) cover 100% of their maintenance costs by sponsorships from local businesses, families and individuals
- Groveland will approach in a similar fashion – e.g., Mile Marker Sponsorships – to cover 100% of required maintenance
- Local business (e.g., Landscapers) will be paid to mow & control vegetation
- Volunteer efforts, as with other towns, are projected to be strong

Trash Removal

- TBD, but possible Carry-In-Carry-Out – DPW would NOT be responsible for trash barrels
- Annual or Bi-Annual “Trail Days” will minimize long term litter accumulation

Snow Removal

- While this will ultimately be a Town decision, it is proposed that the trail will NOT be plowed, to allow for winter recreation, while not burdening the Town with costs to remove the snow

501.3c Status: The Friends of the Groveland Rail Trail

- Formally recognized January 2016 – time and fees to create, donated local supporter
- Non-profit will allow tax-deductible donations from local businesses, families, individuals

Thank you

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