



Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee
Michael Davis, Member
Alex Johnson, Chairman
183 Main Street
Groveland, MA 01834

RE: GROVELAND COMMUNITY TRAIL 25% DRAFT DESIGN PLAN (NATIONAL GRID RIGHT OF WAY)

Fellow Groveland Resident,

This letter is written on behalf of the Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee (OSTC) to make you aware of an ongoing project in our Town – the Groveland Community Trail – which will be of unique interest to you as you own land directly abutting a trail segment running along National Grid’s utility right-of-way which runs Southeast from 441 Main Street to King Street.

We invite you to join us at 7PM on Monday February 23rd at Veasey Park (Boardroom in Main Building) for a Public Forum hosted by OSTC. OSTC and the Town’s lead design engineer (Fay Spofford & Thorndike) will present its Draft 25% Design Plan for the first time for public comment. This draft design plan will be refined to incorporate your and other public feedback before being finalized and ultimately submitted to MassDOT and National Grid for further design and funding consideration.

Additional Public Forums will be held at 6:15 PM on March 23 at Town Hall at that evening’s Board of Selectmen meeting, and at 7 PM on April 13 at a TBD location, likely Veasey Park or Bagnall School.

Please email GrovelandCommunityTrail@gmail.com if you want OSTC and the engineer to focus on particular areas of unique interest, or if you have questions that you may not wish to raise in person at the meeting, or if you are unable to attend this session itself. We will be sure to also include you on future emails related to significant project announcements.

Please see the included map and set of Frequently Asked Questions for a general overview of the project.

To learn more:

- Visit www.GrovelandCommunityTrail.org for comprehensive project details.
- “LIKE” us at www.Facebook.com/GrovelandCommunityTrail for ongoing updates and notifications.
- Email questions anytime to GrovelandCommunityTrail@gmail.com

We look forward to meeting you on February 23rd and hearing your ideas – thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Michael Davis and Alex Johnson

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Groveland Community Trail?

The Groveland Community Trail is a proposed, 3.25 mile shared-use “rail-trail” path, designed to offer safe, healthy, and scenic pedestrian transportation & recreation for all ages & abilities. The trail segment to be discussed on February 23rd runs for 1.95 miles, off-road, from 441 Main Street to King Street – entirely along National Grid’s existing utility right-of-way (ROW). Similar rail-trails can be found in Danvers, Topsfield, Salisbury, Wenham, Newburyport and dozens of other Towns throughout Massachusetts. Full details can always be found on www.GrovelandCommunityTrail.org

How will my private property be affected?

As proposed, no private property will be physically impacted – the trail will be built entirely on National Grid’s ROW with complete consideration to drainage, wetland, animal & vegetation habitats, and other sensitive physical and environmental design elements. For residents with living and/or other outdoor space directly abutting the proposed trail, special considerations may be taken to mitigate privacy and other concerns. Join us on February 23rd to let us know any unique thoughts that you believe our engineer should be aware of.

Who is paying for the trail? Are homeowner taxes being raised in any way?

No. Taxes are not, and will not, be raised to fund any portion of our proposed project. The design plans are being funded entirely with existing CPA dollars – some were approved at 2014 Town Meeting with subsequent funds to be voted for at April 2015 Town Meeting. Once the design plans are 100% complete, publicly available grants from MassDOT will pay for 100% of the construction costs to build the trail.

Where does the project stand today? When will the trail be built?

In April 2014, Town Meeting participants voted to approve existing CPA funds to begin design plans. Those funds are currently being expended to complete a 25% design plan. This draft version of this 25% design plan will be socialized for public comment through multiple Public Forums, including the first on February 23th. Feedback from residents will inform a final 25% design plan which will be submitted to MassDOT and National Grid for further funding and design consideration. The process is long – it is estimated that a final trail would be built sometime in or after 2020.

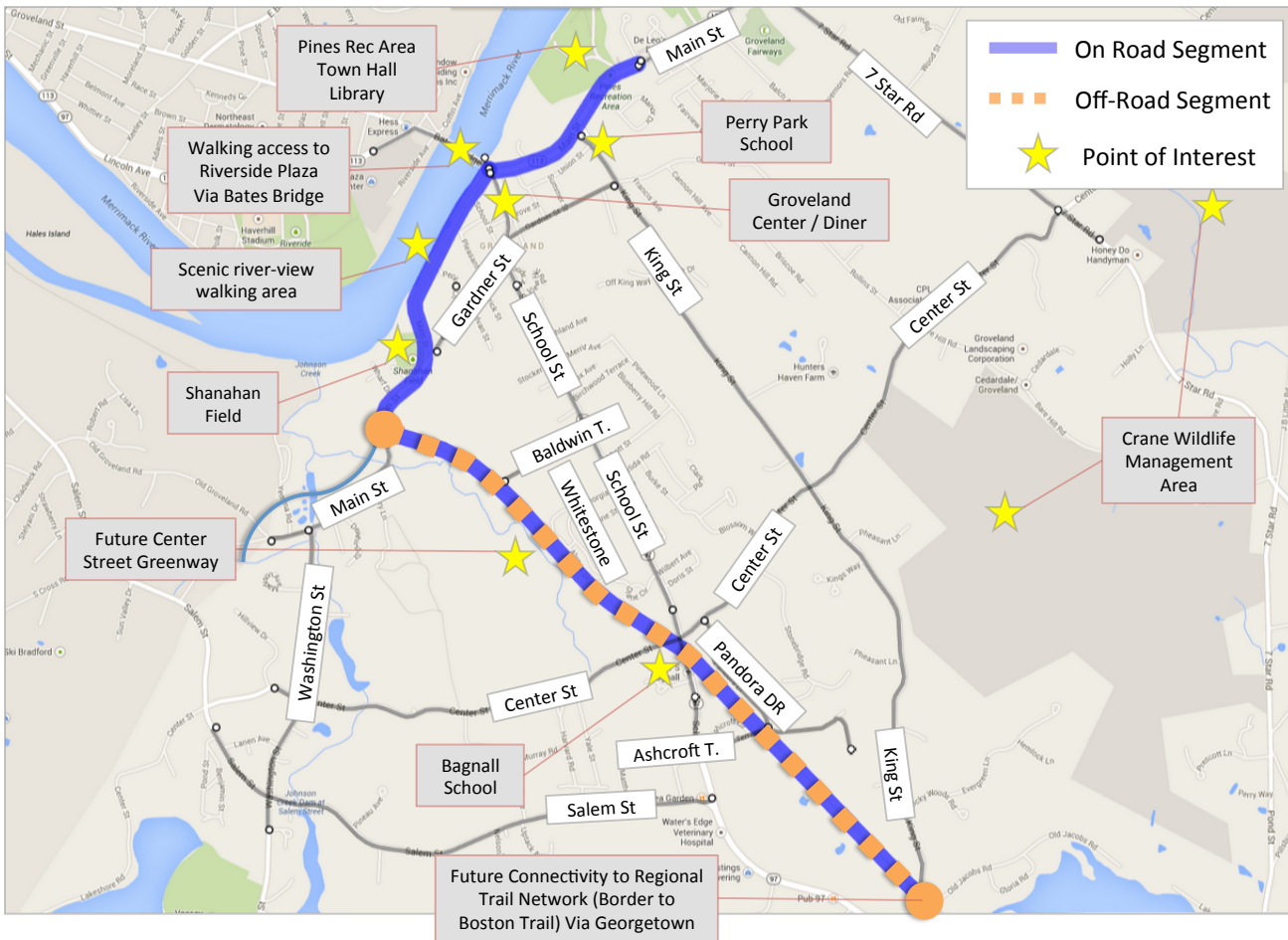
Who will clean the trail? Who will patrol it? What type of crossing signals will be installed? Will privacy fences be built along private property? Where will people park their cars?

These and dozens of other questions will be addressed on the 23rd and in subsequent Public Forums and ultimately answered by way of open, respectful, and informed public dialogue with residents, OSTC, our engineer, MassDOT, and National Grid as we evolve the draft 25% design plan to a final 100% design plan over multiple years.

How can I keep up to speed on project developments and major milestones?

1. Visit www.GrovelandCommunityTrail.org for comprehensive project information
2. “LIKE” us at www.Facebook.com/GrovelandCommunityTrail for ongoing updates and notifications
3. Email us at GrovelandCommunityTrail@gmail.com to be included in our email newsletter

Map of the Proposed Groveland Community Trail:



Note: topics for discussion on February 23rd pertain mainly to orange segment along utility right of way