

# Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Bruce Easom, Ray Jackson, Don Klein, Steve Meehan, Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Guest: Tom Kelleher

### Recap of public walk with Wild and Scenic River

We hosted a successful walk on November 12th with 25 to 30 people, including a surprise visit from Ed Yaglou of the Central MA rail trail. We started at Bertozzi and detoured on side trails to the Squannacook River, where Al Futterman and Bill Wilkinson spoke about the Wild and Scenic River project. We advertised on our Facebook page and also the NRWA e-newsletter. We would consider doing another walk to support the project in Townsend.

### Recap of Townsend Business Association meeting

Bill and Steve joined the TBA and Steve gave a well-received presentation to the group at their annual meeting on November 15. Several people committed to \$1,000 donations.

Groton has a similar group called the Board of Trade. Peter Cunningham will look into the possibility of giving them a presentation.

### Update on property acquisition

Bill suggested we make an offer of \$10K or less. A motion to authorize Bill to negotiate with the real estate agent for up to \$10K, starting at \$7,500, was seconded and passed unanimously.

### Status of environmental permit application

Cedwyn, Bruce, and Mark are near completion of a first draft of our permit application. They intend to submit to Dave Paulson for review within a month. The next step will be to meet

with him to review the draft and get his recommendations, and then meet with town boards to inform them.

A motion to authorize Steve to review and approve the draft application was seconded and passed unanimously.

### Fundraising and financial report

Four more \$1,000 donations puts us at over \$120K. Bill and Peter Cunningham have a few more letters to send out.

Don suggested we start a GoFundMe page. We will revisit this idea as a way to get to our final budget target.

Joan learned that Townsend has several Facebook groups, including one called "What's Going On" that has 6,000 members and has had past postings asking about the rail trail. This may be another good way for us to get our message out to residents. She joined the group and will monitor, answer questions, and post any rail trail events or announcements.

### Discussion with Tom Kelleher

Tom described a railroad bridge on the MA Central Trail in Hudson, MA that was converted to a walkway for about \$10K. This could potentially be a way to cross our trestles if we want to extend the walking trail in the future.

Tom also suggested we link directly to PayPal from the Donate button on our Facebook page.

### Recap of DCR Trails Conference

Steve described the Saturday conference. Ray also attended sessions on Thursday and Friday. Bill spoke about an inspirational opening speaker who built a rail trail in Kansas against extreme opposition.

## **Review of minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes from our meeting on October 18, 2017 was seconded and approved unanimously with three abstentions.

---

## **Next Meeting**

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00 P.M.** at the **Groton Legion Hall.**

---

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.