

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2019

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Peter Cunningham, Don Klein, Steve Meehan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Project timeline

Pete Carson distributed a new draft of a Gantt chart that is based on receiving the Townsend OOC in 21 days after the hearing is closed. We clarified a few important date ranges so he can work out the dependencies.

Recap of Townsend site walk, NOI continuation, and wetland alternatives

During the site walk with the Conservation Commission, we talked with the abutter on Old Meetinghouse Road and discussed ways to address concerns.

In the wet area in the cut between ledges, the Commission became concerned that this is a wetland.

If it is a connected wetland, the State would be involved. Stan Dillis stated in his follow-up report that it is not a connected wetland.

However, the open definition in the town bylaw makes it an isolated wetland, so the Commission wants us to present alternatives.

Stan is working on alternatives to present. Ray, Cedwyn, Bill, and Pete Cunningham weighed in via emails prior to the meeting.

We discussed alternatives and arrived at the following list, in order of preference, which we will send to Stan for consideration.

The first option is to keep the trail in the middle of the corridor and replicate a wetlands elsewhere.

The second option is to shift the trail off to the side of the corridor, as Stan described, with the remaining land as added wetland. This is Stan's preferred option. Mark said that shifting the

substrate for about 300 feet might add around \$10K to the budget.

Mark brought up a third option of narrowing the trail to a minimum of 8' wide.

We cannot accept the idea of routing the trail up over the steep ledge. Also, the boardwalk idea is a non-starter—whether wood or metal, the price is prohibitive. Both ideas have many negative impacts.

Our Conservation Commission hearing is continued to **June 26**. Bill will ask Stan if he thinks it would be beneficial to have supporters attend.

Bill heard that the Commission is walking the trail again on Tuesday to look at the wet area. He will ask Stan to verify and Steve will try to join in.

Sterilite abutter meeting

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26th at 8:00 AM. Steve, Bill, and Don will attend.

Townsend Harbor sidewalk

Don said the Townsend Board of Selectman has submitted a sidewalk request for the DOT's five year funding plan. This is for sidewalks in Townsend Harbor all the way to the new High School. We don't yet know which side of the highway is planned.

Bill will ask Arthur Frost for a copy of the plan.

ITB for contractors

The ITB is on hold, waiting for the construction specs.

Steve asked about publishing a draft for feedback. Joan suggested asking Dick O'Brien for feedback and/or examples.

Fundraising and financial report

Bill reported over \$116K in our account.

We paid \$1,385 in insurance bills. Stan will have an additional bill for continued work.

We have still not heard about the DCR grant.

Groton River Fest

Steve reported a good day, with a lot of verbal support and ~6 new people signing up.

Review of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of our May 29 meeting was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Squannacook Greenways will hold our next rail trail meeting on **Wednesday, July 10** at 7:00 P.M. at the Groton Legion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz

Clerk

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.