

Squannacook Greenways, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2019

Attending:

Peter Carson, Mark Cram, Ray Jackson, Cedwyn Morgan, Bill Rideout, Joan Wotkowicz

Recap of successful Townsend NOI hearing

Following a second site visit on July 7 and a fourth hearing on July 10, the Conservation Commission voted to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for the rail trail.

Pete Cunningham and Bill attended the site walk with four of the commissioners. It was determined that rerouting the trail up and over the ledge to avoid the wet area is not a viable option.

The wet cut is officially an isolated wetland, so we must build a 2,000 square foot replacement wetland. This will be on the north side of the rail bed just east of the wet cut, following a plan developed by Stan Dillis and approved by the Commission.

The Commission also wants a planting plan for the wetland, which Stan will develop. Cedwyn said we could purchase wetland plants from New England Wetland Plants in Amherst, MA.

The OOC will consist of the standard template plus two special conditions: 1) Create the wetland area and planting plan 2) Monitor the transition to wetland for two years.

Pete Carson suggested we contact a garden club to see if they want to remove any plants before we start removing rails.

Review of Sterilite meeting

Bill, Steve, and Don met with members of the Stone family and Gary Shepherd at Sterilite. We agreed to their request for fencing to address their concern about trail users entering their parking lot.

Bill and Mark will meet with Steve Stone and Gary Shepherd on Friday at 8:00 AM to look at the site and work out details.

Review of MassTrails grant

We learned on June 21 that we received the full \$27,780 that we requested!

Pete Cunningham and Joan attended an award ceremony in Lowell on June 26, presented by Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$5 million in MassTrails grants this year to 71 projects throughout the Commonwealth.

Amanda's email said that negotiations will probably delay the beginning of the contract until early August. Bill will contact her to ask for a date estimate.

Bill reminded us that we cannot incur any expenses that will be covered by this grant until the contract is signed, and we cannot count our hours worked as matching funds until that same day.

Squannacook Greenways bike ride/barbecue

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 14 for a bike ride and barbeque at the Rideout residence to celebrate our recent successes. Spouses and significant others are invited.

Project timeline

Pete Carson updated the Gantt chart to begin activities from July 10 when the Conservation Commission hearing closed. According to the plan, we should issue the Invitation to Bid for contractors by mid-August.

Bill will send a letter to the MBTA with the order of conditions.

We will schedule multiple volunteer days to clear brush for placement of wattles. We'll

position them 12 to 15 feet from the centerline to allow clearance for construction.

Joan will add details about brush clearing and wattle placement to the construction specifications for volunteer projects.

Cedwyn will ask Dave Paulson of Natural Heritage if we are allowed to begin placing wattles prior to November 7.

Invitation to Bid

We will continue developing the ITB while Steve is absent.

Cedwyn will work on a bid sheet that lists the items for contractors to quote. Joan will send him the construction document to use as a reference.

Joan will work on a cover page. Bill said it should state that we are a non-profit building this trail using private funds, under a contract that has been ruled as not covered under prevailing wage.

The ITB will need to include a due date for quotes and dates for bid visits. We should also invite questions and clarifications, with the option of sending responses to all bidders.

Mark and Joan will work on completing the construction specifications for contractors. They will send it out for review in advance of our next meeting so the board of directors can discuss.

At the meeting, we will also review the ITB cover letter and bid sheet. Following the meeting, we will incorporate any feedback into the documents and issue the ITB as soon as possible.

Fundraising and financial report

Bill reported that we currently have \$143.5K. This might be the highest amount we ever will have, as we start to incur more expenses.

Sidewalk in Townsend Harbor

Bill spoke with MassDOT, who has no knowledge of a sidewalk project in Townsend. Bill informed Don so he can look into it.

MassTrails Conference

Amanda Lewis of DCR announced this year's conference, which will be Oct 31 to Nov 2 at the Hilton Doubletree in Leominster. Unfortunately, those dates probably conflict with weekends we will install wattles.

Review of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of our June 19 meeting was seconded and passed unanimously with one abstention.

Townsend Police National Night Out

The Townsend PD will host this event on Tuesday, August 6. Ray will represent us. He will send an email to RSVP.

Next Meeting

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wotkowicz , Clerk

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